

Flu wiped out whole

families during World War I

Thursday, June 17, 1976

By DICK KELLEHER

Innoculations to prevent the swine flu will begin in July, state health officials announced recently.

The purpose of the inoculation campaign will be to avoid an epidemic similar to the one that struck the United States between 1917 and 1919 when swine flu, a form of influenza killed thousands.

When that epidemic broke out in Eastern Valencia County, it was called Spanish flu, not swine flu, according to Adelino resident Edwin Berry, 58.

According to various authorities, after that epidemic ended the flu

remained dormant until January of this year. Then a 19-year-old youth at the Fort Dix Army Base in New Jersey was killed by swine flu, said Margie Taylor, public information officer for UNM's Health Science Center. About 500 other recruits caught the flu but recovered.

After that, President Gerald Ford requested from Congress the necessary money to inoculate every U.S. citizen against the flu. Canada's prime minister made a similar request to his government's leaders.

"At this time there is no clear evidence that an epidemic of swine flu will occur," Taylor said. "However,

by immunizing as many Americans as possible, the epidemic can be averted."

Belenite B. E. (Mud) Smith, 75, who is employed at a local car dealership, has vivid memories of the flu epidemic in Belen. He was forced to work in the "pesthouse", the place where those with the flu were confined.

Henry Jaramillo Sr. said he was working for the railroad during the epidemic and was one of the last persons to catch the flu.

Berry, a local historian of sorts, also had stories of what he termed the Spanish flu.

Both Smith and Berry confirmed a report that whiskey was one of the few preventives against the flu. Berry said his known preventive was moonshine, while Smith said it was a shot of whiskey each hour.

Smith began his story of the swine flu by explaining how he was "hired on" the Santa Fe Railroad at Kansas City, Kans., in 1917 and was put to work as a bill clerk. He said he decided to come visit his parents in Belen in January of 1918.

"One of my co-workers decided to come with me. His name was Harry Harrison.

"We took the train out of Kansas

City," Smith said, and had to stay overnight in Amarillo to catch the train to Belen the next day.

He said in Amarillo they were met at the train by the deputy sheriff who gave them face masks as protection against catching the flu as they were taken through town to their hotel. They were told not to leave the hotel, so as to avoid catching the flu, which according to Smith was running high in Amarillo at that time.

When Smith arrived in Belen he said he found his father, M.O. Smith, an engineering inspector for the Santa Fe Railroad, in the pesthouse where they had all the people who had the

flu." He said the old high school had been converted to the pesthouse.

Smith said he demanded that his father be taken to the railroad's tuberculosis center in Valmora, near Las Vega, N.M. "He was cured in five months," Smith said.

Smith's swine flu story doesn't end there. Shortly after he got his father to Valmora the deputy sheriff served papers on him and Harrison requiring them to work in the pesthouse.

He said the first night of the four he spent as a worker in the pesthouse that he "put out" five persons who

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Flu

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had died of the flu. On the second day he said the Army train arrived in town and unloaded 16 persons who had the flu.

The highest number that died when Smith was working were nine in one day.

He said the symptoms of the flu were a high fever with the person being irrational, along with a strong thirst.

Both Smith and Jaramillo said that it was Dr. William D. Ratcliffe who attended many of the sick in the area.

"In our family, we just got lucky, we all survived," Henry Jaramillo Sr. said. Jaramillo said he and his wife, along with their first child, all suffered from the swine flu around 1918.

He said he was working at the railroad's roundhouse and that many of the men were out sick with the flu during that time. "Some came back to work and some died," he said. "I was one of the last to catch the flu."

Edwin Berry said almost "every family lost members." He said the Spanish flu lasted for about a year from 1917-1918. "At least five families" had every member die, Berry said.

He said one whole family, the Samorras, were completely wiped out. Berry cautioned that the Samorra family is not to be confused with Zamora.

Explaining the version he had been told about the start of the epidemic, Berry said, "It started in Spain. Spain was neutral in World War I. It was said that a sailor named Gonzales brought it to this country and it spread all over the world." Berry's story has not been verified by any other source, but it's probably as good as any of the other stories that will probably circulate when the inoculations begin next month.

INTRODUCTION

Belen was founded about 1741 by Spanish Colonists and was named "Nuestra Senora de Belen". The Belen Grant extended to the Sandia Mountains in the East, to the Rio Puerco in the West. On the North to the lands of Nicholas de Chavez and on the South to a house of one Felipe Romero.

Belen became a parish in 1793 and thus enjoyed the privileges of a resident Catholic pastor. To place the date 1793 - George Washington was then serving his second term as president of the United States.

Later Belen was divided in two sections - Old Town and New Town. The catholic church originally was in Old Town. In 1856 announcement was made that a new Catholic Church would be built in New Town. Construction of the New Church began in 1857 (nearly 100 years ago)

Belen experiences its last Indian Raid in 1864.

Early prominent families here were Captain Baltazar C. de Baca and Vicente Chavez who came from Spain. The well known Felipe Chavez was a member of the early Chavez family.

Felipe Chavez opened one of the first general stores in Belen in the early part of 1800.

TIME MARCHES ON!

*(Typed Copies before Panels
were Photographed)*

1873 - 1875

John Becker, Sr. comes to Belen and goes in business as a partner of Huning and Becker.

Belen gets its first Post Office.

John Becker, Sr. - Belen's first Postmaster.

1876 - 1880

John Becker, Sr. organizes his own store.

John Becker, Sr. brings his bride to Belen by stage coach.

Fred Scholle organizes his store

Louis and Henry Huning along with Oscar Goebel, Sr. organize a store

1881 - 1885

John Becker adds two story brick building to his store. This section is now occupied by the Hardware Department.

Three belen men are killed and their wagon train of wool burned a short distance from Belen by Navajo Indian Raid.

Belen Floud Mills are built.

1886 - 1890

Belen population is 685

Paul Dalies Comes to Belen as a teen age boy - 1889

TIME MARCHES ON

Belen Records
1740-1953

1891 - 1895

Belen Heydey Club is organized. It was formerly the Acme Club.

Lutheran Church is organized in Belen.

1896 - 1900

Belen population is 673

Paul B. Dalies brings his bride to Belen.

Fred Scholle store is struck by lightning and burns. It is totally destroyed.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Edward Le Brun come to Belen.

The stork makes the first of eleven trips to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Seery, Sr. Yes it's a girl.

Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Simmons come to Belen.

1901 - 1905

Belen's first prominent doctor, Dr. Wm. Radcliffe, comes to Belen.

Father Picard joins the Heydey Club.

Belen First National Bank is organized.

Belen Bank is held up and robbed of \$600.00.

Frank Fischer comes to Belen.

John Becker, Sr. donates land to A. T. & S. Fe Railway - the strip from the stock yards to Ross Avenue.

Freight came to Belen by ox cart over the Santa Fe trail until this period.

Grade School Building is erected.

1906 - 1910

Belen population is 1733.

Belen Commercial Club is founded.

The Belen Tribune was started in 1906 by Mr. Runron - father of the late Damon Runyon, the famous sports writer and movie producer.

Santa Fe cut off is built.

Belen has 17 saloons and 2 churches.

Buckland Brothers Drug Store is established.

Methodist Church is built.

Belen News is founded by Saturnino Baca.

John Becker, Sr. gets first auto in town.

Santa Fe depot is built.

Adolph Didier manufactures wine.

1911 - 1915

Col. Wm. M. Berger is editor of the Belen Tribune.

Lutheran Church is dedicated.

Fred Scholle gets Belen's second auto.

Paul B. Dalies gets Belen's third auto.

Railway Ice plant is built

Belen stages a big fourth of July parade and all nine local autos are included.

Saturnino Baca is superintendent of Belen schools.

New Mexico becomes a state.

Santa Fe round house is build.

Belen has its last "Gallo Days"

High School being built.

Louis and Sherman Kunkel establish a speed record in driving to Albuquerque - about 1 hour and 6 minutes. This was plenty fast over winding gravel and dirt roads.

1916 - 1920

Father Picard passes away.

New two story brick addition is built to John Becker store. This is the section north of the Hardware Department.

Village of Belen is incorporated and the first Mayor is Bernard (Jackie" Jacobson.

Flu epidemic hits Belen. Local citizens are busy making soup for the sick. Schools are closed and are used for hospitals.

Catholic Church is remodelled and enlarged.

Indian Chief is Belen's star baseball pitcher - see Marty Quintana for all details.

Total enrollment of Belen High School is 52.

Belen High has its first football team. The first game played in Gallup - score Gallup 72 - Belen 0.

Belen gets its first concrete sidewalks.

Harmony Chapter os De Molay is chartered.

Trigo Canyon is favorite picnic spotfor Belen people.

Belen Auto Co. (Ford) is established.

Belen Order of Masons is Chartered.

1921 - 1925

Belen Federated Church is organized.

Wilson Truck Lines is established. They had to back up the hills on the road East of Isleta.

Dr. E. G. Brentari opens office in Belen.

Belen has championship baseball club. Peanuts Adair is team manager. Sonnie LeBrun is star left fielder. Sonnie has a strong throwing arm and can damn near throw a ball from left field into a hat that is placed on home plate.

Paul Dalies usually gets into "hot water" when umpiring.

Belen gets its first electric power. Power is turned on at noon and off at midnight.

Belen High School has graduation exercises with senior class of 8 members held at Goebel Hall.

1926 - 1930

Belen St. Mary's School opens.

Feil & Ellermeyer are established.

Halama Enderstein are established.

Art Goebel, born and raised in Belen, wins the Dole Race (aeroplane) from California to Hawaii.

Belen Knights of Columbus is chartered.

Valencia County first Fair is held in Belen.

First town water system is installed.

John Becker Company changed in name to The Becker-Dalies Company.

Austin Lovett starts with Becker Dalies Company.

1931 - 1935

The Fair store is established.

John Becker, Sr. passes away.

John Becker, Jr. becomes president of the Becker-Dalies Company.

L. C. Becker becomes president of The First National Bank.

Belen is rocked by a series of earthquakes and Belen schools are closed.

1936 - 1940

High line ditch breaks and Belen streets are flooded.

Belen Rotary Club is chartered.

Fred Harvey discontinues operations in Belen.

John Becker, Jr. is killed in accident.

Paul Dalies becomes president of Becker Dalies Co.

Belen Chamber of Commerce is organized - formerly the Civic Club.

Belen gains nationwide fame when the figure of the Madonna appears in the window glass of the home of Ramon Baca on South Main Street. P.S. the mystery is further deepened when it is reqlized that Russ Dalies was born in that very house.

1941 - 1945

The floods came. Hundreds of men work on the levees of the Rio Grande.

P. P. Simmons retires from active service of the Becker Dalies Company - 43 years active service.

Natural gas is piped to Belen.

Belen hospital is built.

Railway Ice plant is destroyed by fire and it is immediately rebuilt and enlarged.

Silva Drugs is established.

1946 - 1950

Paul B. Dalies retires from active service from Becker-Dalies Company - 57 years active service.

L. C. Becker becomes president of Becker Dalies Co.

Frank Fischer passes away - with Becker Dalies Company 44 years.

Belen Builders Supply is established.

Belen Credit Bureau is established.

Belen Lion's Club is chartered.

Ranchero Builders Supply is established.

The Belen News-Bulletin is established by the merger of the News (Ed Lewis) and the Bulletin (Carter Reid)

1951 - 1953

Belen gets new Post Office.

Belen gets new Telephone Exchange Building.

New street lights are installed on Main Street.

Main street is paved curb to curb.

New River Bridge east of Belen is completed.

Belen is planning for new water system.

Santa Fe Railway yards are enlarged.

New Grade School building is completed.

Belen loses prominent citizens, Mr. and Mrs. Feil and Mr. Ellermeyer, in auto accident near Isleta.

75th ANNIVERSARY

As members of the Board of Directors of the Becker Dalies Company, Paul Dalies has a record of over 64 years service and P. P. Simmons has a record of over 54 years service. Many of us here at this moment have not lived that number of years. These two men have served a total of over 118 years at their occupations and these fine gentlemen are still going strong and in good health today.

TIME MARCHES ON



2017-004-018

Main Street looking North

West

Joel's Store & Hotel

Store

Jose

Felipe Chavez

Home, Carriage house

West

East

Lutheran

Church

(Zion Evangelical Lutheran church)

Looking north on Main Street.

The 1st Lutheran Church is on the right.

Oscar Joel's Mercantile is across the street. Felipe Chavez's home, and canopy house is to the north.

60 L

San Mariano

*Hub City Heritage Days
Sat - May 12*

Engineer in SF hat comes out - William?

- Sure does feel good to be back here in Belen. I'm a train man, and Belen is a train town. It wasn't always a train town, of course. Before the trains came to Belen, it was a quiet little town, but it was already an important one.
 - The first settlers came to this area in the 1700s. A group of families from Albuquerque petitioned the Spanish for a land grant to be located south of Los Chavez and Tome, between the Rio Puerco and the mountains. Here's their petition. (**shows copy of petition**). Some of the signers of this petition are from the families Salazar, Torres, Romero, Vigil, Trujillo, and Sandoval, so if you're from one of those families, your ancestors were some of the very first Spanish settlers to live in this valley.
 - For a hundred years after that, supplies were brought to Belen along the Camino Real which ran to Chihuahua, Mexico. Traders ran caravans of carretas like this (**show picture**) pulled by oxen, or mule trains like this (**show other picture**). It was expensive and dangerous to make this long journey, but if you were successful, you could make a fortune. Some of the traders from Belen who did that were Antonio Jose Otero and Francisco Perea. So if you're from one of those families, you know that your ancestors were very brave men who became very rich.
 - One of the wealthiest of these traders was a man named Felipe Chavez. He was so wealthy that his nickname was "El Millonario". Here's his picture. He looks like a millionaire, doesn't he? He inherited both money and a store from his father, and because he was a very smart businessman, he was able to increase his wealth many times. He was sort of the Sam Walton of his day – he was good at finding the lowest prices to buy goods and he bought from wholesalers all over the country – New York, Philadelphia, and St. Louis, and also from England and Mexico. He became involved in sheep raising, farming, mining, and real estate and supplied soldiers from the U.S. Army.
 - He brought money and jobs to Belen, and he also brought some social life and excitement to this little town. Belen was a small town, remember, and so there wasn't a lot to do here. El Millonario had the nicest house in town. It was located right behind his store. The store is gone today, the new Walgreen's is now in it's place, but Don Felipe's house is still there. It may not look like what we'd think of as the house of a millionaire today, but it was a very large house for Belen at the time, and he gave parties and dances there. Here's an invitation to a dance there. (**Pass it around**). It was quite an honor to get one of these.
- El Millonario Felipe Chavez brought money and jobs to Belen, but perhaps more importantly, he helped bring the railroad to Belen. That was probably the most important, game-changing thing that ever happened to Belen. And this is how it happened.
 - It started out with a problem. In the 1880s, the Santa Fe route from Chicago to Southern California looked like this. On a map, it looks like a good route, doesn't it? It's almost a straight line from Chicago to Los Angeles. But there's actually a huge problem right here (point to Raton Pass) at Raton Pass and Glorieta Pass. The mountains here

are so steep that trains can't get through them without what they call "helper engines" or "pushers". Those are extra locomotives that stay parked on a side line at the bottom of steep hills. (*Act this out with your hands.*) When a train needs to go up the mountain, it stops at the bottom and those locomotives pull out and attach themselves to the back of the train and help push it up the hill. When the train has made it over the hill, the helpers either let it go and roll backward down the mountain to wait for the next train, or they go on over to the other side with it, and then detach to wait for the next train coming from the other direction.

All of that costs extra money and takes extra time, so it slows down the trains, and it means that fewer total trains can be sent across country. So the Santa Fe railroad decided to do something about that. They needed a "cutoff", which meant a detour around the mountains. Here's what they did (*Mark off with a marker on the map*). They came down through Amarillo, and then crossed over into Clovis, and then they wanted to go on to Arizona.

But should they go through Belen, or somewhere else? The original survey by the Santa Fe shows that the best place to put the tracks would be a little south of Belen, close to where Jarales is today.

But "El Millonario" Felipe Chavez had political influence. He belonged to the statewide Democratic Central Committee, and he knew people all over the United States. He teamed up with another rich and influential man from Belen – a man named John Becker – you'll hear more about him in a little while –

And so that's what happened. That new line, called the "Belen cutoff" was finished in 1908, and immediately Belen became one of the busiest rail centers in the entire country. That's why Belen's nickname is "Hub City", because it's a huge railroad hub.

Even today, more than 100 trains a day come through Belen.

Man/Woman 2 (could be an engineer or something else) – Jack?

- All that train traffic was a great thing for the economy in Belen. Belen began to grow. Before the trains came, Belen was a small town of farmers and sheep-and-goat herders. Most people didn't have much money. They bought what they needed on credit at the store, and they paid for it in lambs or wool or produce. It was a hard life for most of the people in Belen.
- But when the trains came to Belen, suddenly there were good jobs in Belen. Jobs that paid cash. There were lots of well-paid jobs with the railroad itself – jobs working on the trains and jobs working in the train yard, refilling the trains with coal and water, for example, or repairing the trains and the tracks. New workers moved to Belen, and they spent their pay in Belen, which created more new jobs building houses and selling food and clothes and furniture and all kinds of other things. The railroad was certainly a great thing for Belen.

- Besides the new railroad workers who were spending money in Belen, there were many more railroad travelers coming through each day. They needed a place to eat, but that was hard to do, because the trains stopped only for 30 minutes – just as long as it took to take on new coal and water – and that wasn't long enough for the passengers to get into town, find a restaurant, order a meal, have it served, eat, and get back to the train.
- Well, several years before the railroad came to Belen, a man named Fred Harvey (*show pic*) had already noticed this problem, and he came up with a solution. He made a deal with the Santa Fe railroad to open a chain of restaurants called Harvey Houses located directly at the railway stops all along the lines. He decided to build a Harvey House in Belen.
 - The Harvey Houses had great food, and they could serve a meal so quickly that the guests could finish within 30 minutes.
 - Cook comes on as he says this
 - The servers were all young women called "Harvey Girls". Mr. Harvey advertised all over the East and Midwest for young women who wanted to come out West and work. He paid a salary and offered free room and board. Since there weren't many jobs available to young women at the time, that was a very good deal and hundreds of young women became Harvey Girls.
 - Girls (7) come on as he says this
 - There was also a matron – a house mother -- to look after them and keep their parents from worrying
 - She comes on as he says this
 - When Belen Harvey House opened, many more new people moved to Belen. I'm going to let them tell you about how and why they came to Belen themselves . (steps back.)

Girl 1: So what brought you here? I mean, here to Belen . . to the Harvey House?

Marghey: I answered this ad (*pulls out clipping*) in the newspaper back home.

Girl1: Well, sure. We all answered ads. But we all had our different reasons for wanting to leave where we were and come out here? So I was just wondering, what was your reason?

Marghey: Well, I guess it was just that .. I needed to be somebody. I mean, I needed to be somebody. I mean, well, up till now, I've haven't been much of anybody. I've never done anything exciting or adventurous. Until I came here, I'd never been more than 15 miles away from home, except to visit my aunt and uncle once. I just want more in my life. My friend Bessie -- she said I should just marry George, and then I'd be someone – I'd be Mrs. George Murphy. I do want to settle down someday, of course, and George is a dear, but -- not yet. Before I marry someone, first I want to be someone myself.

Girl 2: Well, honey, you've sure come to the right place. Belen is just the right size town – not too small, but also not too big so you get lost in the crowd. Everyone is someone in Belen!

(*cue music bum, bum, bum, bum, .. bum, bum, bum, bum behind – like between verses of the Ants Go Marching song*)

Belen, Belen, where everyone fits in
You might come here a stranger but you'll go away a friend.
And everyone who visits here is sure to come again
Cause everyone is someone in Belen.

(musical bum, bum, bum, bum, .. bum, bum, bum, bum behind while girl one turns and points at another and asks:)

Girl1: Dora, what brought you here?

Girl 2 (steps out)

I'm Dora the Explora, not a stay-home kind of girl
I left my home in Delaware to go out and see the world
Whatever is in store for me I'll face it with a grin

Betty?

Girl 3

I'm Betty and I thought I was in love in my home town
Then he married my best friend and I just couldn't stay around
With a little time and distance my broken heart can mend

Chorus

Girl 1

My name is Liz I was a scholar at the University
When suddenly I realized that life was passing me
So I threw away my books, and now life can begin .

Man 1 (could be Clara instead)

My name is Charlie, I'm the cook, and I lived in old St. Loo
Where I ran a little dice game that the cops objected to
So I left town ... rather quickly, and I can't go back again.

Chorus

Man 2

My name is Bob I've been with Santa Fe for just above a year
And now I've been promoted to a full-fledged engineer
I'll be coming through each day at 2 on good old Number 10 !

Girl 4

Once I loved a gambling man, till he ran out of luck
Then he up and left me, and frankly, I was stuck
So I went looking for a place where I could start again

Chorus

Girls 5,6,7

I'm Beth, I'm Fran, I'm Patti, and my name is Em
We were back East husband-hunting but the pickin's there were slim
And so we came out West where there's a good supply . of . men

Woman 8

I'm Sal and I'm a widow from the town of Albuquerque'
My husband didn't leave much money so I had to go to work
And that is how I came to be .. these girls' Mother Hen
As matron of the Harvey House in old Belen

Final chorus. Last line is slower, goes up on last 5 notes to signal end. Wait for applause then exit.

Person 3 (man or woman, any age, any era?)

- Now, I need to back up a little and tell you about John Becker. He was an immigrant from Germany who came to this area and worked at a store owned by Mr. Louis Huning from Los Lunas, who was his uncle. He learned to speak the local language . . Spanish, and then after a few years, he opened his own store, using a loan from Felipe Chavez.
- He prospered and branched out into other businesses, including a flour mill, and the wheat and wool businesses. He was also founder of the First National Bank here in Belen, which today is the Wells Fargo bank, and he was the first postmaster of Belen. Becker Street is named for him, and he built Anna Becker Park and named it for his wife.
- His store was right here, on Main Street. (**show on map and picture**) Some of you may even remember it, because it was still there until about 30 years ago. He owned pretty much all of the land here, east of Main Street to the train tracks (**show on map**) and he laid out the streets and developed it. And do you notice anything clever here that he did? (**pause**). Do you see how these two streets run from each side of the train station? This one, Becker Street, goes straight from one side of the train station to the location of his store. And this other one, Dalies Street, starts up parallel from the other side of the train station, but then it curves and ends up in exactly the same place: right in front of Becker's store! For travelers arriving in Belen, "all roads led to the Becker store". Clever man.
- John Becker was the other man, besides Felipe Chavez, who probably did the most to bring the trains to Belen. Don Felipe was interested in politics, and he was also a large stockholder in the Santa Fe railroad, so he used his influence there. Meanwhile, John Becker, with his nephew Paul Dalies (Dah-LEEZ) started acquiring the land that railroad would need to build the tracks through Belen. He would persuade farmers who owned land that he needed to exchange that land for other land, out of the way of the tracks, and pay them a cash bonus for doing it. He spent over \$8000, which would be over \$200,000 today, doing that. But it was well worth it to him, because

when the trains came to Belen, and Belen began to grow, his store grew with it, and John Becker and Belen prospered together.

Do we need the below or not? It's a lead-in to the final song

- The Becker Store is gone now, and so is the store of El Millonario, but there's a lot of old Belen that's still left. Two old hotels from the turn of the century still face each other on opposite corners of Becker Street. One is vacant, but one is now the studio of Judy Chicago, a nationally known artist.
- The Harvey House finally closed in 1939. But of course the Santa Fe still owned the building, and used it for a place where railroad crews could wait between trains. They could read or smoke or take a nap. That continued until 1980, when it finally closed for good. Luckily, Belen was smart enough not to tear it down. It re-opened just 3 years later and it is now the Valencia County Historic Society Museum. If you've never seen it, you should plan to visit. It's free, with donations accepted.
- And of course not only do we still have one of the busiest railroad hubs in the United States, but we now have the southernmost station of the RailRunner, New Mexico's passenger rail service, which runs from here to Santa Fe.

(As finale, cast sings "B-Town" with audience participation)

One of the MCs

- Belen's a pretty important little town with a history we can all be proud of. That's why it deserves its own song. And here again are our Harvey House girls to sing it for you. *(Girls come out and instead of all standing in front, those who can sing spread out around sides of crowd, if possible. This should encourage more audience interaction.)*

Girl 5, 6 or 7 – should be a very cheery type who can get response from crowd

This is a song about Belen, but we call it "B-town" in the song.

It's kind of a fun song to sing, because this song has a lot of "B" sounds in it, and every time you hear a "B" in this song, you raise one of your arms in the air, like this. (All girls punch a fist in the air – either arm).

Let's try it. (She sings first line slowly with arm motions. Make the arm go up a second after the B, as explained below. Rest of cast sings or mouths and does arm motions)

It's **Be**-you-ti-ful To **Be** In **Be**-town

If response is poor, says "Let's try it again. When I say "B" (raises fist), raise your arm. (She says the next line, instead of singing it. Raises arm just a second after saying the "B", giving audience a split-second to process what's going on. Other girls raise fists along with her and encourage kids near them to do it, too. Other cast members do it on stage.)

It's **Be**-you-ti-ful To **Be** In **Be**-town

OK, you've got it. Here we go. (All the girls sing/mouth together and do the arm motions timed with the **Bs**.)

It's **Be**-you-ti-ful To **Be** In **Be**-town
On a **Be**-you-ti-ful Morning like this
It's **Be**-you-ti-ful To watch **bee's** buzzin'
Round **be**-gonias In the morning mist
But **Be**-ware **Be**-cause Old **Be**-town Can **Be**-witch you
And then when St. Peter calls you You will see ----
You might **Be** content To stay **Be**-hind In **Be**-town
Be-cause **Be**-Town is A heav'nly place to **BE**!

...

But **Be**-ware **Be**-cause Old **Be**-town Can **Be**-witch you
And then when St. Peter calls you You will see ----
You might **Be** content To stay **Be**-hind In **Be**-town
Be-cause **Be**-Town is a **Be**-you-ti-ful place
Be-guiling **Be**-witching **Be**-dazzling place
An un **be**-lievably **be**-you-ti-ful place to **BE**!

*The last **Be** should be extended (**ee .. ee**) rising two steps and reprise the Belen song. Singers spread out around the area beckon or invite with an outstretched hand people from the audience to come out and join the kick-and-sway line to fill it out all around the room. Do the chorus twice (more if needed because lots of people are joining), again using the rising intonation on the last 5 syllables the second/third/last time through to show that it's ending.*

Belen, Belen, where everyone fits in
You might come here a stranger but you'll go away a friend.
And everyone who visits here is sure to come again
Cause everyone is someone in Belen.

Belen, Belen, where everyone fits in
You might come here a stranger but you'll go away a friend.
And everyone who visits here is sure to come again
Cause everyone is someone in Belen.

One of the engineers: Thanks for coming everyone. We're the Mansion Players of Valencia County and we hope you had a good time.

END

1901

February 9, 1901 FRED HARVEY DIES at AGE 65

1902

Work on Belen Cutoff starts.
Final plans completed in December.

1906

from Albuquerque Journals (ALBUQ. PUBLIC LIBRARY)
VOL 21-23

ISSUE OF

January 2

Just inside entrance to Abo Canyon, railroaders are temporarily laid-off due to heavy snow. At camp #2, \approx 100 men, 1-4 feet of snow. Belen reports via telephone to the Morning Journal it snowed heavily. -4° on Jan. 2

also

January 2

"Santa Fe covets that big mail contract."

"Trains #s 1, 7 and 9 from the east on the Santa Fe were almost on time last night, which announcement will be received with more or less incredulity perhaps among the people of Albuquerque." Salt Lake has a new fast train, Rock Island and Union Pacific, are "greasing the rails and opening the throttle an extra notch." Santa Fe is not at all behind.

Company scheduled to carry mails from Chicago to West, contract to last 4 years. TRAIN 9, fast mail train from Chicago here on Santa Fe, is one of fastest in West.

ACCORDING TO the Belen, N.M., story by Fr. STANLEY

"Work on the Cutoff brought in professional gamblers, con men, ladies of easy virtue, gunmen, toughs." Bertha RUTZ, who opened a hotel when construction on the Cutoff began, cooked an oyster stew, something the men in the long line of bunk cars did not have for ages.

1909

from BELEN TRIBUNE, vol. 3, Jan 9, 1909 - Aug 14, 1909

@ ZIMMERMAN
LIBRARY

ADS read "The Future Railroad Metropolis of New Mexico"

"Lots being sold quick" by Belen Town & Improvement Co.

★ REGULAR SERVICE THRU BELEN TO START JAN 18, '09
(passenger & freight) Belen will be terminal of 4
divisions; Las Vegas to north, El Paso to south, Clovis
to east, Gallup to west.

★ 50 TRAIN CREWS brought in, "which means an
addition of at least 200 to present population."

in March ... "the new and elegant concrete depot" will be erected
"Belen Cantaloupes" shipped, very good returns for farmers

★ April 3, 1909 "The sites for the Harvey eating house and
passenger depot are now being graded level and
placed in shape for the contractors of those bldgs.
Two weeks ago, the contractors of those bldgs were
here, taking notes of the location, grade, etc. They
then stated that work would be commenced on the
foundations of those structures not later than May 1"
"present depot too small"

April 10

July 10

Chicago to Belen time reduced by 10 hrs.
On Oct. 1, fastest passenger and express service
to be inaugurated... fastest and best equipped
passenger and mail service ever attempted in
"history of the road."

Many issues
missing

1914



July 27

JOHN FINK born in Harvey House. His father,
NICHOLAS, was manager. (Mother-Ida Mae)

1916

BELEN POPULATION IS ABOUT 1,600

1917

Belen News

MARCH 22

Santa Fe employees found 7 sticks of dynamite on #10 train Monday morning, wrapped in a newspaper. Found on second car from engine at front of baggage car. Employees reported seeing a man go between the cars shortly before the discovery. "They said the man was unmistakably a foreigner. They believe he was German or Austrian."

MAY 31

Effective May 15-Sept. 30 Fares:

Colorado Springs, \$23.25 round trip
St. Louis \$51.05, Chicago \$58.80, NYC \$86.10
C.F. JONES, agent.

1917

HB-248, 1917 Legislature ... maximum passenger rate is 3¢/mile, passes 40-7

1923

October 11

The National Commanders Special Legionnaire train from Texas en route to national Amer. Legion convention in San Francisco stops in Belen at 4:30 for 1½-2 hr. concert by Old Grey Mare Band of Brownwood, TX.

ATSF reports, in 1924, it did not lose a passenger this year... > 16 million passengers travel avg distance of 152 mi.

1924

(*)

January 17
issue

A.B. KENNEDY, manager of Harvey House, brought before JUDGE ARMISTO on Jan. 12 and charged with assaulting Miguel Rivera, mgr. of the Belen Cash Store. Kennedy pleads guilty, is assessed \$15 fine + costs, (CANNADY?) see 10-1

(*)

February 14

MR. KENNEDY (CANNADY) resigns as HH manager and heads to Slayton, Texas, where he will purchase a bakery,

February 13

"cow, sow and HEN" demonstration train in Belen (to LL on Feb. 20) carries "valuable message for safer farming."

(*)

March 20
May 8

Mr. COMSTOCK is mgr. of SF READING ROOM
Banquet for seniors + HS teachers in dining room, 41 attend, Earl Rutz is toastmaster.

Bertha Rutz hosts bridge party; sewing party hosted by Mrs. Brentani
Mrs. Frankel Smith

May 15

(*)

~~March 20~~
January 10


Ladies of St. Philip's Guild meet at Harvey House with Mrs. Cannady. Miss Nutter gives address on "Porto Rico".

(*)

June 5

ad in Belen NEWS seeks boy about 14 yrs. of age to sell ice cream cones on S.F. station platform 4-6 p.m. each day. "Must be an American, neat and courteous... apply at Fred Harvey newsstand."

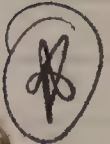
1925

 February 1

Mr. and Mrs. John BECKER, P.B. BALIES, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. LINNS, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. DAVIES of Los Lunas and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Jacobson of Albuquerque attend a dinner party @ Harvey House in honor of Mrs. Frank FISCHER.

February 12

Trains 1 & 10, Chicago to L.A., re-routed over Belen Cutoff; as new through-train service, 'The Scout', (route is 9 hours faster) Trains 13 & 14 El Paso to Denver will replace night trains between Albug. and El Paso as of March 15.

 February 26

CARL WEBBER, mgr. of Harvey House, in Topeka on biz.

May 7

JUNIOR-SENIOR ^{prom +} banquet is held at Harvey House. "One of the much talked-of events of the season." Excellent menu and decorations.

(*)

April 1

1937

BELEN ROTARY CLUB chartered in Harvey House.
C.P. ANDERSON gave address, as did UNM
Pres. DR. JAMES F. ZIMMERMAN

1939

BELEN POPULATION ABOUT 3,500

Harvey lease ends, ATSF takes over.

1940

April 18

BHS band plays for presidential candidate
Thomas Dewey.

May 30

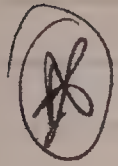
Dining room is now a lobby, SF Reading Room.
No poker allowed, "home comforts," people donate books
MANAGER is F.W. CAMPBELL

1954

(A)

C.E. MARTIN takes over as manager, runs it until 1971. Martin dies in 1986. Tells me 12-hr. rest period cost 50¢ in 1954. (\$1.50 when he retires in '71)

1956



16,327 sleep at Harvey House
On decline, fewer crews.

1961

From
News-Bull. Oct 9

Paving Santa Fe Parking Lot

10-9-1961

The work of paving the parking lot on the west side of the passenger and freight station of the Santa Fe Railway in Belen is under way.

The lot had a dirt surface and the paving was decided upon by the management to eliminate the dust stirred up by heavy traffic and sometimes by the winds.

The park between the passenger station and the former Harvey House now used as a hotel and recreation place by Santa Fe trainmen is well kept and travelers who board or detrain at the Belen station for this and other points from the San Francisco Chief streamliner comment upon the beauty of the grassy plot.

Eisenhower On Belen Stop

5-3-62 issue

Talks to Vistors During Train Stop

By Muriel Smith

In good spirits and showing his usual smile, Dwight D. Eisenhower, former president of the United States, and Commander in Chief of the Allied Forces in World War II, paced the pavements and shook hands with trainmen and a few others at the Santa Fe Railway station in Belen Monday morning.

America's popular war hero took advantage of the train ser-



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

wait to enjoy Belen's high altitude and dry air and sun-

nyper and erect, Mr. Eisenhower seemed happy to exchange greetings with the few trainmen and some local residents on the station pavement.

In reply to a question about the present state of government, Eisenhower said:

"I am not worried about how the Government is doing; it is the government is doing to (the people) that worries me."

Mamie Eisenhower, residing in the lounge of the Eisenhower private car, since it was noted she is much affected by high altitudes.

Among those who shook hands with the former President, were

Protest Changes at Belen Depot

The proposed removal of trees and conversion of the park south of the old Harvey House into a parking area at the Santa Fe Railway station in Belen is being protested by the Belen Chamber of Commerce.

The trees and green lawn at the depot makes a favorable impression on travellers who get off the Santa Fe's streamliner, San Francisco Chief, and walk while the train is serviced, and also on travellers on the north-south lines, El Paso to Albuquerque and Denver, it was pointed out in the letter.

Also, now that more people than ever are visiting Belen and coming by train to see the Rio Grande Estates, the park creates a fine impression when they step off the trains.

1962

Old Harvey House Manager Dies

4-26-62

Word was received recently of the death of Marshall Henry Van Coeverden, former Belen resident. He died in Los Angeles after a short illness.

Mr. Van Coeverden was manager of the Harvey House in Belen for many years, until its closing in 1940. He lived in Clovis, Brownwood, Texas, Williams, Arizona, and Los Angeles, California, as manager of the Fred Harvey Houses in those areas. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn.

Memorial services were held in the Wilshire Chapel in Los Angeles, and interment was in the Inglewood Park Cemetery.



1980

September 2

READING ROOM CLOSES.



Walking Tour of Historic Becker Street Buildings

By

Ronnie Torres Museum Technician

Belén Harvey House Museum

June 6th, 2014

Although Belen is 274 years old, it never had an official plaza like those in Santa Fe or Socorro. So, in 2006, then mayor, Ronnie Torres had one built in the middle of town. It became known as the Heart of Belen.

A giant arch was also built to replicate the front of the 1st National Bank of Belen, which was built on that location in 1914 and eventually torn down in the 60's.

The Heart of Belen Plaza is used year round for festivals, weddings and other community based events.

2006

Heart of Belen

*Downtown Revitalization
★ Project*



Ribbon Cutting Celebration

*Thursday, March 23
12:00 Noon*

The New Heart of Belen Plaza

*Celebration held in conjunction with
Belen's 5th Annual Mardi Gras & Spring Fest Celebration
Parade Begins at 11 am and Entertainment concludes at 3 pm*





Looking East on Becker Street
Picture was taken during the
annual Our Lady of Belen
Procession

HARRY AND PEARL AUGE OPENED
THEIR FIRST MARKET ON BECKER
AVE IN 1923.
THE BUILDING IS NOW
WESTERN BAR.



Central Market owned by Harry and Pearl
Auge in 1923

Later it became the Western Barn

The west side of the building literally melted
during some heavy rains in 2013.

It was part of the Becker Street Pub complex.

The owners tried to save the building but it
was too far gone. So it was demolished and
now being used as a parking lot.



G&E Bowling Alley

Grand Opening September 25, 1945.

Named after its builders Pat Gibson and Ed Eucker.

G&E originally had 7 lanes eventually adding one more.

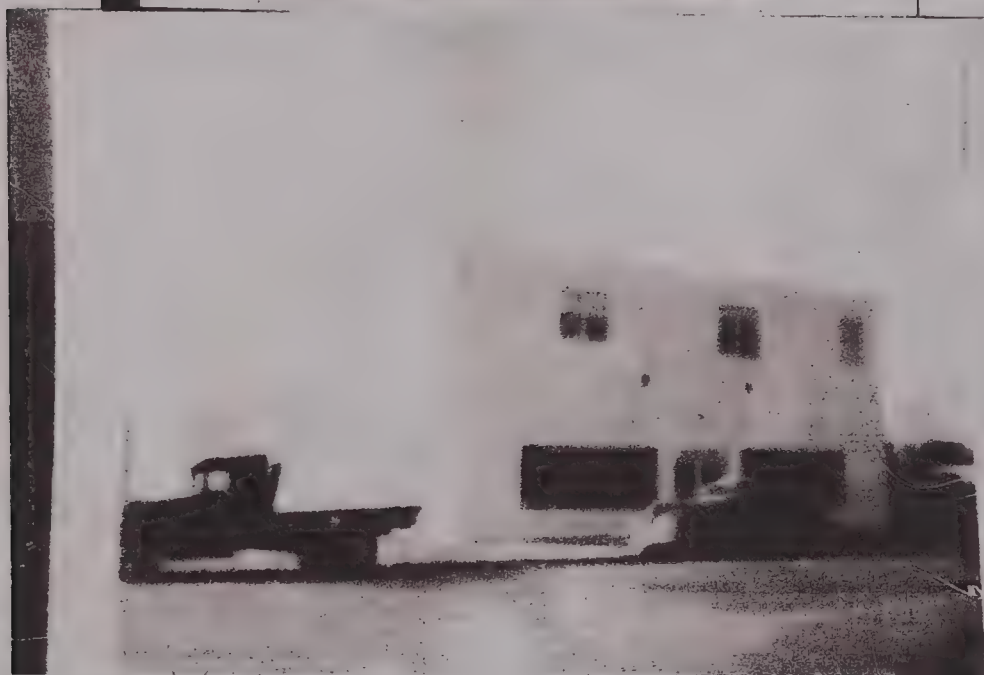
Pat Gibson's sons Ken and Glen worked in the bowling alley.

Ken ran the burger and soda fountain and Glen kept all the hand operated pins running smoothly.

Andy Vari Pappa a popular celebrity at the time visited the bowling alley shortly after opening, Pappa was known as a Trick Bowler, easily bowling 300's.

G&E eventually became what is known today as Sugar Bowl Lanes.

Sugar and Eva Glydwell owned and operated the Bowling Alley for over 50 years until retiring. It now sits vacant unless used in an occasional feature film.





Here is a picture looking west towards Main Street on Becker.

Notice on the left the two story hotel; this is one of the only known photos of this hotel. It was said to of burned down early on.

Notice on right the Central Hotel, Belen Hotel.

June 18, 1980

...ing ... Society.



DON ARMSTRONG/FOR THE JOURNAL

RESTORED: Much of the Belen Hotel's rehabilitation effort went toward its masonry. The hotel was built in 1907 to serve rail travel.

BELÉN

HOTEL'S INCREDIBLE SAGA

Couple, Native Son Restore Building

BY ARLEY SANCHEZ
Journal Staff Writer



DON ARMSTRONG/FOR THE JOURNAL

INTERIORS: Donald Woodman brought his expertise in architecture to hotel's renovation.

This little railroad town seems an unlikely place for internationally renowned artist Judy Chicago and her husband, photographer Donald Woodman, to settle, but the couple saw a chance to preserve a local treasure and make it their own.

Three years ago, the couple bought a deteriorating red brick hotel built in 1907 by German immigrant Bertha Rutz and transformed it into a warm, inviting home

and private studio.

They did it with the help of a much native son, Trinnie Mascareña, a mason brickmason who was at first dubious taking on such a massive project, but adopted it as his life-defining work. Mascareña died of a heart attack in September 1995 before he could see his masterpiece finished.

On Sunday, Chicago and Woodman open their home to friends and neighbors when the Belen Hotel is featured in a

See **BELÉN** on PA

Belen Hotel To Be Opened for Tour

PAGE 1

of historic buildings sponsored by the Valencia County Historical Society.

Spring on an elevated wooden deck added to the west side of the hotel. Woodman told the story of how he and Judy, who was out of town this week, came to live in Belen.

"We were living in Santa Fe working on this major project we were about to complete," Woodman said, adding that the lease on their home was about to expire.

"Judy wasn't so sure that she wanted to stay in New Mexico, but I had been here since 1972 and I didn't want to leave," he said. "We knew we didn't want to stay in Santa Fe because it had become too rich. The town I had known as friendly, small and local had attracted too many people who had their own vision about what New Mexico should be, and then they built it."

The couple looked in the Rio Grande Valley and found the hotel. They bought it and then began an "incredible saga" of trying to secure the financing to renovate it. Woodman credits the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division of the Office of Cultural Affairs and the First State Bank as key backers.

The couple agreed to keep the hotel's three defining characteristics: its decorative red-brick facade with parapets, a main indoor stairway and hall, and more than 20 original doors to the hotel rooms. The rooms themselves were reconfigured to fit the couple's living and work needs.

The building suffered over the years from general neglect, arson, vandalism, and a leaking roof. The east wall of the structure was so weakened by water damage and vandalism that it was near collapse. Before the work could begin, the couple had to find a good brickmason.

"I asked around and everybody said, 'You need to talk to Trinnie Mascareña,'" Woodman said.

Woodman found Mascareña.

And he found that Mascareña was particular about the jobs he chose.

"I kept pestering him," Woodman said. "I told him we've got this project and I heard he was the best mason in town. I finally got him to come over and we walked around the building. All the time, he was shaking his head and saying, 'I don't know. This is a big project.'"

Mascareña was a musician and a former high school star running back. Most of all, he had gained a reputation as a master craftsman. Mascareña was posthumously honored in May for his work on the hotel with a New Mexico Heritage Preservation Award, given by the Historic Preservation Division.

Woodman, a professional photographer who has a background in architecture and construction, worked "shoulder to shoulder" with Mascareña.

"We became really good friends," Woodman said. "I was really heart-broken when he died. I don't think this project would have been completed without him."

As Woodman leads a visitor on a tour of the 7,000-square-foot hotel, he says that although it was wired for electricity in 1907, there was no power in Belen until much later. Kerosene lamps lit the rooms. Heat came from a coal furnace through steam radiators. The building had no plumbing. A hand pump in the kitchen kept water barrels filled.

Today, brilliant sunshine spills from a large skylight overlooking the central stairway leading from the front door. The original wood floors have been stripped, washed and varnished. The original windows have been rebuilt and painted. A "mystery door to nowhere" is on the second floor. It opens directly over the sidewalk below. Woodman speculated the original owner may have planned to build a balcony overlooking the street but never did. Examples of the couple's artwork and photography hang on the walls. Romeo, the couple's large cat, roams like a prince through a



DON ARMSTRONG FOR THE JOURNAL

GRACEFUL ASCENT: One of the hotel's defining characteristics respected by the renovation project is its main stairway.

castle.

Woodman said he hopes the restoration of the hotel will spark similar rejuvenations in downtown Belen, which has a collection of historical buildings, such as the red-bricked Central Hotel across the street and the Harvey House, one of the last of the chain of hotels built along the Santa Fe Railway's route.

"In the three years that I've been working down here, a lot of positive things have already happened to this end of town," Woodman said.

Townpeople often dropped by while the work was progressing to tell stories about the hotel. People told about playing at a pool hall across the street. One person said his parents spent their honeymoon at the hotel.

Woodman said he and Chicago have made many friends in Belen.

"We've had good experiences with everybody we've met in town. We know all our neighbors and everybody looks out for each other. You don't get that everywhere," Woodman said. "This is where we live and work. This is where we're going to stay."

Tour Planned As Fund-Raiser

The Valencia County Historical Society is hosting a fund-raising historic house and hotel tour Sunday.

Tours will be held at the Luna Mansion, home of Solomon Luna, the most powerful man at the New Mexico state Constitutional Convention of 1910; the Felipe Chavez Hacienda, the remodeled home of the Santa Fe Trail merchant known as "The Millionaire;" the Belen Hotel, famous railroad hotel newly remodeled by artists Judy Chicago and Donald Woodman; and the Belen Harvey House, one of the last Harvey Houses in the Southwest.

The Luna Mansion is near the intersection of NM 314 and Main Street in Los Lunas. There is a 1 p.m. tour that's only open to the first 35 people.

The Chavez Hacienda is west of North Main Street in Belen, behind the Luna Chevy auto dealership. Tour times are every half hour starting at 1:30, with the last at 3:30 p.m.

The Belen Hotel is near Becker Avenue and Second Street in Belen. Tour times are on the half hour, starting at 1 to 3:30 p.m.

The Harvey House is at the east end of Becker Avenue in Belen. Tour times are on the half hour beginning at 1, with the last at 3:30 p.m.

The historical society's annual awards ceremonies will be held at 4 p.m. at the Tierra del Sol Country Club in Rio Communities. Cost of the tour is \$12 to the public and \$10 to Historical or Genealogical Society members. Honorees this year are Eleanor M. Hawley, recipient of the Red Brick Award, and John S. Aragon, who will receive the Rio Abajo Award.

For more information, call 925-8620.



Interior of Castillo Grocery Store later becoming E. Garcia Grocery best known for Eva's Blue Ribbon Chile



Silver Café now owned and being used as
storage for red chilé by Petes Cafe



The Kuhn Hotel was built around 1909 by Ruth Kuhn who came here from Missouri via covered wagon.

Ruth purchased land from John Becker where she built a restaurant east of where the Hotel stands today. She eventually saved enough money to build the 24 room Hotel.

Ruth lived down where there was also a kitchen and dining room, Ruth provided one meal a day family style (foods on the stove come and get it)

Coal heated the hotel as late as the 60's.

The hotel was retro fitted in the 50's to include wash basins and small kitchenettes in the rooms which were rented to local Rail Roaders.

The hotel closed in 1972 under the management of Oliver Bias-the grandfather of the current owner Joanie Antiaga.

Joanie- hopes to some day to bring the Kuhn Hotel back to its glory days.

Belen, New Mexico

Coordinates: 34°39′56″N 106°46′34″W﻿ / ﻿34.66556°N 106.77611°W﻿ / 34.66556; -106.77611

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Belen (/bəˈlɪn/; Spanish: *Belén*) is the second largest city in Valencia County, New Mexico, United States. The population was 7,313 at the 2011 Census.

Belen is Spanish for Bethlehem, and gained the nickname "The Hub City" because of a major rail junction on BNSF Railway's Southern Transcon rail line.

Belen is part of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Contents

- 1 History
- 2 Geography
 - 2.1 Climate
- 3 Cityscape
- 4 Demographics
- 5 Government and politics
- 6 Culture
 - 6.1 Annual festivals and other events
 - 6.2 Museums
 - 6.3 Parks and outdoor attractions
 - 6.4 Media
- 7 Education
 - 7.1 Public schools
 - 7.2 Private schools

Belen, New Mexico

City



Seal

Nickname(s): The Hub City



Location of Belen, New Mexico

Coordinates: 34°39′56″N 106°46′34″W﻿ / ﻿34.66556°N 106.77611°W﻿ / 34.66556; -106.77611

Country	United States
State	New Mexico
County	Valencia
Government	
• Type	Mayor-Council
• Mayor	Rudy Jaramillo
Area	
• Total	4.7 sq mi (12.2 km ²)
• Land	4.7 sq mi (12.2 km ²)
• Water	0.0 sq mi (0.0 km ²)
Elevation	4,810 ft (1,466 m)
Population	
• Total	7,313
• Density	1,463.1/sq mi (564.9/km ²)
Demonym	Belenite

<div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">7.3 Community college </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">8 Transportation<ul style="list-style-type: none">8.1 Roads8.2 Airport8.3 Rail8.4 Bicycle Routes </div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">9 Notable people10 References in popular culture<ul style="list-style-type: none">10.1 Movies10.2 Literature11 References12 External links </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>Time zone</div> <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer (DST) </div> </div> <div> <div>ZIP code</div> <div>Area code(s)</div> <div>FIPS code</div> <div>GNIS feature ID</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Mountain (MST) (UTC-7)</div> <div>MDT (UTC-6)</div> <div>87002</div> <div>505</div> <div>35-06480</div> <div>0923557</div> </div>
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History

Belen was founded in 1741 as Nuestra Senora de Belen by a group of Spanish colonists led by Diego Torres and Antonio Salazar, who received permission to settle the tract of land known as the Belen Grant the year before.^[1] Recognizing the strategic significance of Belen, Spanish authorities established a fort in Belen to protect the settlements along the Rio Grande in 1760. By the 1790s, Belen had established a city center known as Plaza Vieja, or Old Town, and had grown from a paraje, or precinct, to a partido, or district, with a population of 1,695. By 1793, a Catholic church and parish was founded.^[1]

By the middle of the 19th century, Belen had outgrown Old Town and was expanding into what became known as New Town. In 1853, the residents in each part of town disagreed over the construction of a new Catholic church, with residents of Old Town wanting the new church to remain there, while residents of New Town wanted it built in their part of town. Ultimately, the adobe church in Old Town was abandoned and a new church was built in New Town. In 1910, the last ruins of the former church were dynamited and the crushed adobe was used to pave New Town's main avenue Becker Avenue.^[1]



New Mexico ❖



THE LAND OF HEALTH
AND OPPORTUNITY

Belen, New Mexico was founded early in the 16th century by the Spaniards, at which time they were advancing northward from Mexico in search of gold, and in quest of more lands for their Sovereign, the King of Spain. During the latter part of the 18th century, pioneers started drifting westward, and many settled in this locality. Among these were farmers, miners, stockmen, and representatives of all types of businesses. They acquired lands, and established businesses and industries, many of which still exist.

LOCATION.

Belen is geographically located near the center of the state, in what is known as the middle area of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. It has three thousand population, and is in Valencia County, a County whose financial condition is excellent, and tax rate nominal. Belen has a modern sewerage system, and the domestic water is 97% pure. It is rapidly adding more paved streets to those already in existence. Electricity is supplied to the Community by an extensive Electric system.

BUSINESSES.

There are in Belen those businesses essential to any thriving Community. It is one of the most important division points of the great Atchinson, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, and holds the record for tonnage and number of cars handled in the Western States. Here is maintained a large roundhouse, and extensive repair shops. There is an average of 350 men employed, with a monthly pay roll of Sixty thousand dollars. There is also maintained an immense ice plant, with a daily capacity of 108 tons, and storage capacity of 7000 tons. It is from this source that the city secures its ice supply. A large flour mill, established over fifty years ago, is completely modern, and uses a major portion of wheat and other crops in the production of flour, and in the manufacture of stock and poultry feeds. The

First National Bank of Belen, with deposits of over one million dollars, is one of the strongest financial institutions in the Southwest. Numerous mercantile establishments, some with a record of over half a century in business, supply the needs of an area comprising many hundreds of square miles; including also markets, garages, drug stores, cafes, hotels and camp grounds, as well as other business institutions. Opportunities exist in many lines of business.

SCHOOLS.

Belen schools consist of a Senior and Junior High School, accredited by both the New Mexico Department of Education, and the North Central Association of High Schools and Colleges, also three grade schools, buildings being modern, and equipped with heating, plumbing, and lighting. In addition to a regular curriculum, the High School maintains exceptionally fine departments in domestic science, manual training, agriculture, and vocational guidance. Several institutions of higher learning are located within a few miles of Belen.

CLIMATE.

The climate is very temperate, the valley being literally hemmed in by mountains to the north and east, and high mesa on the west. To the lovers of nature, the mountainous environs are an unending delight. With an altitude of almost 5000 feet, the summers are characterized by pleasant days, and cool nights, the winter very moderate; the atmosphere being so dry and bracing that it is especially beneficial to those in search of health. Many prominent citizens of New Mexico are men and women who came here to regain their health, and remained not of necessity, but of desire.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture plays a most important part, and accounts for a major source of income to this locality. All types are represented, among the most favorable

being poultry and livestock raising, truck gardening, and general farming, and the fact that water for irrigation is nonfailing, due to the completion of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District program, the future of this valley is a bright one. Wheat production of 30 to 40 bushels, and corn of 40 to 50 bushels to the acre are nominal. Alfalfa is grown in abundance, and normally yields 3 to 4 good cuttings per year. The valley is adapted to all kinds of fruit raising, and grapes are especially productive. Poultry raising and dairying, with the mild climate and advantages of locally grown feeds and forage, afford great opportunity for the production of eggs, and cream as well. Sheep and cattle raising are of the oldest businesses in this locality. Approximately 25000 acres of improved and unimproved land are available for farming, and at nominal figures.

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS.

Indian Pueblos, Ancient Mission Ruins, Perpetual Ice Caves, with many other interesting attractions are within easy driving distance.

HUNTING AND FISHING.

Both large and small game abound in the valley and mountain districts, and fishing in mountain and valley streams, lakes and drainage canals.

ORGANIZATIONS.

There are represented in Belen, churches of practically every denomination, as well as several fraternal and civic organizations, whose activities are constantly evident in Public life.

The Belen Civic Club invites your inquiry for further information and details.

Address:

W. D. CAMPBELL,
Secretary.
Box 86. Belen, N. M.



View from Flour Mill Elevator
ca. 1920 fiestas

Don Sloan



Belen Harvey House Archives

DON FELIPE CHAVES'S STAGE COACH IN PARADE BEFORE IT
WAS DESTROYED IN A FIRE IN LATE 1940'S



J. M. SLOAN
COLLECTION ©

Aerial View Looking North Towards Blair 1960's

It is estimated that the construction forces will be increased to 3,000 men and 1,500 teams, within the next thirty days. A short line will be built to Abo canyon first. Three grading camps will be established, one ten miles, another twenty miles and another thirty miles. The latter two will be in Abo canyon.

Busy scenes are already being enacted in the canyon. Saloons and gambling houses are going up there, and a small town is being given birth to.

John Becker, who is the largest property owner in that part of the Rio Grande valley, and the people of Belen, expect great things of their town. And, right they should. Its present prospects are that it will arrive at a population of 2,500 people and become one of the most important cities of the Rio Grande valley.

A plat of the city has been made and incorporation papers will be applied for. The plat covers some hundred acres of land and its location to the railroad is very pretty. It shows the pretty parks in the center of the city.

The streets and avenues run with the points of the compass. The avenues running east and west are named after Spanish generals, Alvarado, Cortiz, Coronado, etc. The streets running north and south are numbered. The numbers begin at "First" on the west side of the city and increase to the railroad on the east. It is not as yet positively known where the new depot will be, but it is presumed that its location will be made about a half a mile south of the present depot and where Lantry Sons offices are now located. The railroad has a large body of land extending on each side of their right of way at this place.

Jim Sloan

AREA RESIDENTS JULY 4th, 1896 PICNIC

Left to Right:

Top Row:

Fred Huning
 Carl Muensterman
 Louis Huning
 Louis Becker
 Monte Rigney
 Arnold Pohl
 Carl Huning
 Richard Pohl
 Fred Becker
 Carl Dalies
 Gustav Becker
 Arthur Goebel, Sr.
 Jacob Vielstick
 Paul Dalies - Trombone
 P.P. Simmons
 Jacob Sichler - Trombone
 C.W. Uptegrove
 L.C. Becker
 Fred Scholle -Big Hat - Horn
 John Douglas
 --
 Louis Vielstick
 Leon Herzog
 Adam Sichler
 Charles Reinken
 Bill Spackman
 J.H. Becker, Jr.
 Dr. W.D. Radcliffe, St.
 Adolph Becker

Short Row:

Anita Becker
 Sophia Sichler
 Helen Becker
 Ida Douglas
 Mr. Levi
 --
 Mrs. Muensterman
 --

Mrs. Arthur Goebel, Sr.
 Mrs. Arthur Goebel, Jr. and Baby
 --
 --

Bertha Rutz Daisey
 Anna Vielstock Craig
 John Becker, Sr.

3rd. Row

Mrs. Geick - mother
 Rev. Geick
 Mrs. Geick - wife
 Mrs. Henry Gleason and son Alvin
 Mrs. Jacob Vielstick
 Mrs. Levi
 Nina Otero
 Kate Kroneke
 Mrs. Fred Huning, Sr.
 Mrs. Oscar Goebel, Sr.
 Mrs. John Becker, Sr.
 Oscar Goebel
 Ben Becker - on lap
 Carl Muensterman
 --

Bottom Row

Martha Geick
 Geick son
 Willie Gleason
 Lucie Becker
 Edgar Goebel
 Lolita Huning
 Ethel Levi
 Carlisle Becker
 --
 --
 Godfried Geick
 Oscar Goebel, Jr.
 Herbert Goebel
 Curt Goebel
 Walter Goebel

BELEN, NEW MEXICO

Belen, a prosperous town of 4500 population, is located in the center of the Rio Grande agricultural district and at the crossroads of across-the-state travel. From Belen the most interesting scenic spots and landmarks of the Old West are easily reached and the rich lands thereabouts give residence to a thriving population of agriculturists.

Located at the junction of Highway 85 and State Highway 6, thirty-two miles south of Albuquerque, Belen's progress has been more rapid since the completion of the Rio Grande Conservancy program, completed at an approximate cost of ten million dollars, to furnish drainage and water for irrigation for the farm lands of the valley. Each year the County Fair of Valencia County is held at Belen, and each year shows progress in the type of agricultural product shown.

The schools represent an investment of nearly \$200,000, the buildings are up to date and the facilities of the various units are of the highest type. Its commercial establishments offer every type of commodity that is offered elsewhere, and the bank at Belen, sufficiently capitalized, serves an estimated area of 25,000 square miles. Since 1936 it has loaned almost \$1,000,000 for home modernization under the FIA program. Belen's stores and shops are well stocked and equipped and add their part to the creating of a happy and prosperous community. Many of the citizens of the town are here because of its splendid mild, healthful climate.

1500 pupils are in Belen's schools. Its religious organizations provide background for all denominations. Its civic clubs are active for the betterment of the town: the Rotary, the Civic Club, the Women's Club, the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary. The Belen Game Protective Association all contribute to the civic welfare. Hunting and fishing in the locality are well above par. The Rio Grande Valley really is famed for a pleasant country and the fishing in the Rio Grande and in the drainage lands under a recently proposed plan will furnish sport of the best.

The points of ancient interest around Belen, including the Spanish Mission ruins at Abo, Gran Quivira is a short distance beyond as are the ruins at Quatani, Acoma, the San City of international renown, Inscription Rock, the Ice Caves and El Morro National Monument are all within the radius of a day's travel. The Puerto de Isleta is but a few miles to the north and to the explorer who seeks romance for his



Belen city hall is shown at top. In oval is view in Belen city park, while below is a view of the Junior high school building. And not all of the tall corn is grown in "Joway," but some at Belen the scene at right center shows.

and the road that runs south along the east side of the Rio Grande from Belen to Socorro offers a magic carpet trip into the old world. Casa Colorado; San Juan, Vergata, the post office department inn; Las Nutrias; La Jolla and Pueblo, the little village adobe towns, all of them, that have the essence of the old world scene.

The railroad shops in Belen are among the finest in the West and the Railway Ice Company's plant, with a manufacturing capacity of 100 tons of ice per day, handles the using of fruit from east from California and Arizona expeditiously and in large numbers. A flour mill is located here that does a prosperous business within the valley. Progressive in all manners, the town has all the modern improvements: gas, water, sewerage, electricity and dial telephone system. No place in the State offers a more homelike or hospitable surroundings than this historic little city in the Valley of the Rio Grande.

Although the town was not designated as Belen exactly 200 years after the advent of Coronado, it was no doubt in 1740 that the application for a land grant was made to the King of Spain by those who had settled in the locality. The grant was made in 1741 but the date of the application will be considered and the anniversary of the founding will be commemorated at the time of the Belen Fiesta, August 15.

The coming of the Santa Fe Railroad to Belen marks an era in its growth, then when the line was completed to the east through Amarillo to Kansas City, another period began. From that time forward Belen has had a steady march of progress. Permanence, an essential to progress is common to the business establishments of the town. The store established by John Becker sixty-three years ago and done business at the old stand under the management of Paul Diller who came to Belen fifty-one years ago. The flour mill built in 1874 does business in the same building and under the same auspices. But newness has come to Belen and aided in the town's progress. Up and down the mesa on either side of the town prospecting for oil and gas deposits gains momentum. Drilling indicates the accuracy of geological forecasts and Belen stands ready to welcome a new industry, and continues in her ways of progress.

CUT-OFF TOWN IS VERY BUSY

According to Col. Berger of
Belen--Active Operations
on Cut-Off.

RIO PUENCO END BEING WORKED

Colonel Wm. M. Berger of the Belen Townsite company, is in the metropolis today and will be here a few days in the interest of the company he represents. Colonel Berger says that Grant Bros., the contractors on the Rio Puenco end of the cut-off division, have now got down to quick work in the grading and they are making the dirt fly with rapid strides. Dr. Radcliffe has just built three large hospital tents near his residence for the care and treatment of the sick and injured who are working on the new grades.

The train service eastward to Willard, Sunnyside and other points on the cut-off is regular and it is doing a big business in passenger and freight traffic.

The local officials at the Santa Fe depot are rushed both day and night, and it has become necessary to have more aid for the agent in charge to take care of the increasing business. Grant Bros. have opened their headquarters and office in a large building on Carnada avenue.

The John Becker Co. is sinking an additional well at its roller flour mill.

The Becker avenue and Carnada avenue sidewalks are being graded from the Becker Mercantile Co.'s store to the sites of the new Harvey House and passenger depot.

The new Commercial Club building is expected to be entirely completed within two weeks. A committee of arrangements consisting of Colonel Berger, chairman, Chas. Reinken, H. Emory Davis, L. C. Becker and Paul H. Dallen has been appointed to make suitable arrangements for the dedication and opening of the new club building, and to prepare a program for the occasion.

The church services at the Lutheran church are largely attended and the Society of Christian Endeavor connected with the church is being well attended by the young people of the new city.

All the mercantile stores of the city are feeling the impulse of the new order of things. A new restaurant was opened the past week to fill the demands of the hungry ones, transient and regular.

One of the most spirited ball games which has ever been played on the Belen field came off last Sunday between the regular team and the scrubs and it taxed the industry and tact of the old team to keep the substitutes from running away with the victory end of the score. With these two teams to draw from we believe the Belen team will prove a hard nut to crack for any club that may have the temerity to offer a challenge to it in the future, "for shure something going to drap."

CUT OFF TOWN VERY BUSY

Clipped By:



rioabajoslone
Thu, Mar 2, 2017

BELEN BOOMING.

The Quiet Nice Town of the Rio Grande Assumes Much Activity.

PEOPLE REJOICE OVER PROSPECTS.

After a score or more years of peaceful and undisturbed slumbering the little village of Belen has in the past few days awakened to a busy and bustling city of commercial importance, and the building of the Santa Fe cut off, the key to the shortest transcontinental route in the United States, is responsible. A glimpse of Belen yesterday, although the day was a day of rest to the world, showed the little city alive with people from every walk of life, hurrying, scurrying, hither and thither, bent on business. The two small hotels were filled to overflowing. Men and women slept on pallets in the hotel offices, in chairs and many other places, where a little sleep and rest could be secured.

Mechanics are in demand.

Buildings, both business and residential, are going up everywhere. Tents, occupied by people, laborers and mechanics, are scattered about in profusion.

The actual construction of the new road has already begun. Some 300 men and teams worked on the new grade last week. A trainload of material and 150 mules, for the grading outfits, were unloaded there Saturday night.

continued next page

Movies in Belen • Free Walking Tour Map!

Movies Filmed in Belen

FILMS:

The Minuteman (TBD)
Model Citizen (TBD)
Stargirl (TBD)
Dreamland (2019)
Sgt. Will Gardener (2019)
The Long Dumb Road (2018)
The Space Between Us (2017)
Cowboy Drifter (2017)
The Founder (2016)
Katie Says Goodbye (2016)
Blood Father (2016)
Sun Belt Express (2015)
Transcendence (2014)
Two Men in Town (2014)
As Cool As I Am (2013)
The Last Stand (2013)
5 Shells (2012)
Fanboys (2009)
Living Hell (2008)
Sunshine Cleaning (2008)
Swing Vote (2008)
\$5 a Day (2008)
Have Dreams, Will Travel (2007)
The Lost Room (2006)
Bollocky Simper (2003)
Convoy (1978)
The Man Who Fell to Earth (1976)
Mustang! (1973)
Bunny O'Hare (1971)
Gas-s-s-s (1971)

SHORTS:

Fortress Home (2017)

TV:

Briarpatch, Season 1, Episode [TBD] (TBD)
Better Call Saul, Season 4, Episode 9 (2019)
Preacher, Season 1, Episode 3 & Episode 10 (2016)
Dig, Season 1, Episode 3 (2015)
Killer Women, Season 1, Episode 3 (2014)
In Plain Sight, Season 4, Episode 6 (2011)
Top Cops, Episode 269 (1993*)

REFERENCES:

The Cowboy Way (1994) (cowboys are from Belen)
Better Call Saul, Season 3, Episode 3 & Episode 4 (2017)
(prosecutor is from Belen)

Famous Actors Who've Filmed in Belen

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Johnny Depp

Mel Gibson

Bette Davis

Christopher Walken

Kevin Costner

Morgan Freeman

Liam Neeson

Gary Oldman

Michael Keaton

Forest Whitaker

David Bowie

Margot Robbie

Emily Blunt

Rosario Dawson

Dennis Hopper

Nathan Lane

Claire Danes

Ernest Borgnine

Kris Kristofferson

Jack Cassidy

Cillian Murphy

Paul Bettany

Luis Guzman

Asa Butterfield

George Lopez

Kate Mara

Harry Dean Stanton

Johnny Knoxville

Rebecca Hall

Paula Patton

James Marsden

Judge Reinhold

Jaimie Alexander

Eduardo Noriega

Peter Stormare

Carla Gugino

Talia Shire

Olivia Cook

Kevin Pollak

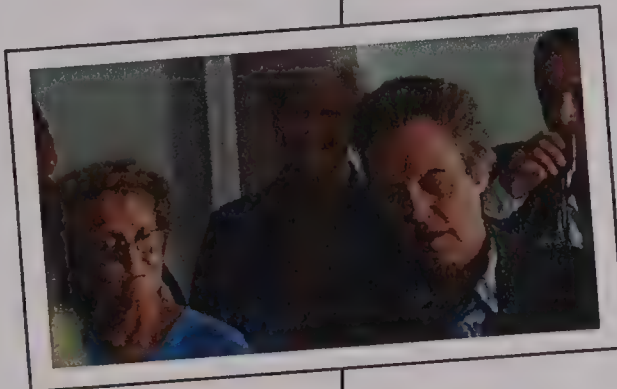
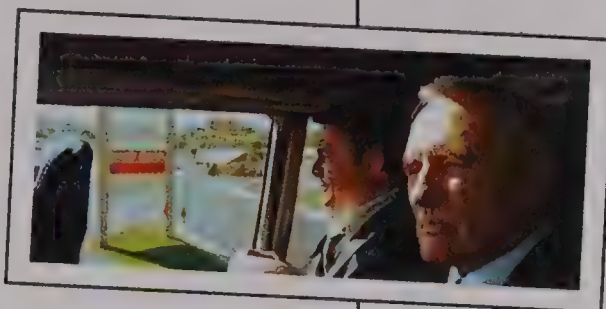
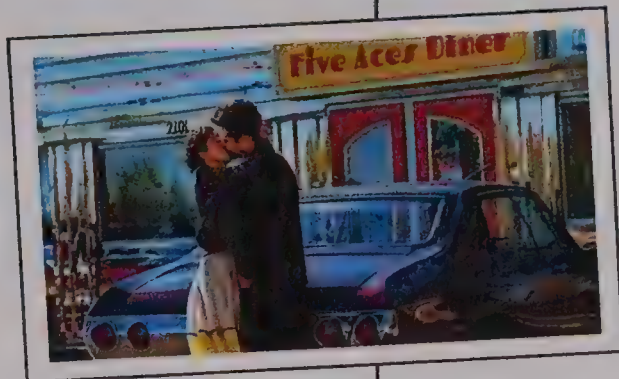
Tate Donovan

BD Wong

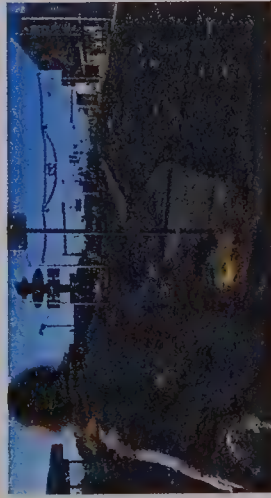
Britt Robertson

Ali MacGraw

Grace VanderWaal



SOME IMPORTANT FILM LOCATIONS



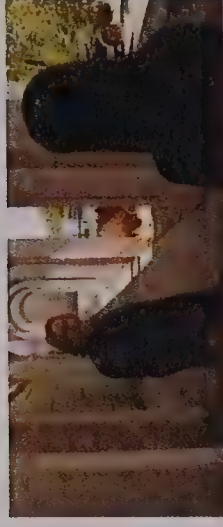
Gas-s-s-s



Bunny O'Hare



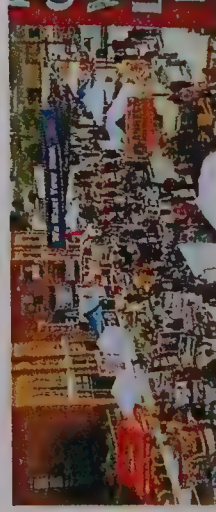
As Cool As I Am



The Space Between Us



Swing Vote



Transcendence



Preacher



The Last Stand



BELEN'S FIRST FOOTERS FESTIVAL



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

Join us for the Grand Opening of the new
Belen Rail Runner Station Pedestrian Bridge
with music, food, local crafts and more starting at 12:00 noon.

Be the first person to walk across the bridge!

Purchase \$1 tickets at local businesses!

If your ticket is drawn, you and four guests will be the first to walk
across the bridge or you could win one of many prizes!



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 - 8.3 Rail
 - 8.4 Bicycle Routes
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- 10 References in popular culture
 - 10.1 Movies
 - 10.2 Literature
- 11 References
- 12 External links

Time zone	Mountain (MST) (UTC-7)
• Summer (DST)	MDT (UTC-6)
ZIP code	87002
Area code(s)	505
FIPS code	35-06480
GNIS feature ID	0923557

History

Belen was founded in 1741 as Nuestra Senora de Belen by a group of Spanish colonists led by Diego Torres and Antonio Salazar, who received permission to settle the tract of land known as the Belen Grant the year before.^[1] Recognizing the strategic significance of Belen, Spanish authorities established a fort in Belen to protect the settlements along the Rio Grande in 1760. By the 1790s, Belen had established a city center known as Plaza Vieja, or Old Town, and had grown from a paraje, or precinct, to a partido, or district, with a population of 1,695. By 1793, a Catholic church and parish was founded.^[1]

By the middle of the 19th century, Belen had outgrown Old Town and was expanding into what became known as New Town. In 1853, the residents in each part of town disagreed over the construction of a new Catholic church, with residents of Old Town wanting the new church to remain there, while residents of New Town wanted it built in their part of town. Ultimately, the adobe church in Old Town was abandoned and a new church was built in New Town. In 1910, the last ruins of the former church were dynamited and the crushed adobe was used to pave New Town's main avenue Becker Avenue.^[1]

The residents of Valencia County spent nearly 30 years from 1846 to 1875 disputing where the county seat should be located. Valencia, north of Belen, was the county seat in 1846, followed by Peralta in 1847. Valencia reclaimed the county seat in 1849, only to lose it to Tome in 1852. Belen captured the county seat from Tome 20 years later, but lost it to Tome two short years later in 1874. Finally, in 1875, Los Lunas claimed the county seat and remains the county seat to this day.^[1]

In 1884, the General Land Office, through the authority of President Ulysses S. Grant, established the Town of Belen. By the turn of the century, local merchant John Becker had designed a commercial and residential plan for the town. Becker's plan laid out Belen on a grid, extending from a commercial center with two grand avenues: Becker Avenue and Dalies Avenue.

In 1907, the Belen Cutoff for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway was completed, connecting Amarillo with Belen.^[1] Prior to the Belen Cutoff, trains used the steep Raton Pass on the Colorado and New Mexico border. The cutoff made it possible for many more trains to travel east and west across the United States. Today, Belen remains a major refueling station for BNSF Railway, where an average of 110 trains travel through Belen in a 24-hour period on the Southern Transcon.

Belen was officially incorporated as a municipality in 1918.^[1] It was originally called the "Village of Belen," later becoming the "City of Belen."

The world's first atomic bomb, in unassembled pieces, traveled through Belen in July 1945 en route to the Trinity site at what is now White Sands Missile Range. The bomb's Belen route used old Highway 85, now Highway 314, also known as Main Street. Located in downtown Belen in 1945 was Roy's Cafe, a restaurant where military and science personnel would go to grab a meal, since it had the necessary security clearance. Local legend suggests personnel escorting the atomic bomb, and perhaps the bomb itself, stopped at Roy's Cafe as they passed through town.

In 1950, William F. Beavers, owner of B&B Cafe on Becker Avenue, filed the first patent for a machine that sliced potatoes into waffle-like slices, vowing to help commercialize the now famed waffle fry in cafes across the United States. His patent was granted two years later for what he called a "slicing machine with stationary knife and reciprocating carrier" made "for the slicing of potatoes and like foods into attractive shapes." The waffle fries could be paired with Belen's own Hub City soda pop brewed and bottled locally by the Belen Bottling Co. The soda's trademark was "Pop with Personality."

Geography

Belen is located at

34°39′56″N 106°46′34″W﻿ (/tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Belen%2C_New_Mexico¶ms=34_39_56_N_106_46_34_W_type:city) (34.665587, -106.776225^[2]). According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 4.7 square miles (12 km²), all land. The city lies in the Albuquerque Basin on the west bank of the Rio Grande.

Climate

This climate type occurs primarily on the periphery of the true deserts in low-latitude semiarid steppe regions.

Climate data for Belen, New Mexico													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °F (°C)	50.7 (10.4)	57.5 (14.2)	63.9 (17.7)	74.4 (23.6)	83.7 (28.7)	93.1 (33.9)	95.2 (35.1)	92.3 (33.5)	86.1 (30.1)	75.5 (24.2)	61.5 (16.4)	51.2 (10.7)	73.76 (23.21)
Average low °F (°C)	18.6 (−7.4)	23.1 (−4.9)	29.5 (−1.4)	37.9 (3.3)	46 (8)	54.6 (12.6)	61.8 (16.6)	59.7 (15.4)	50.7 (10.4)	38.9 (3.8)	26.3 (−3.2)	19.9 (−6.7)	38.92 (3.87)
Precipitation inches (mm)	0.3 (8)	0.4 (10)	0.4 (10)	0.3 (8)	0.3 (8)	0.7 (18)	1.4 (36)	1.3 (33)	0.9 (23)	1 (30)	0.2 (5)	0.5 (13)	7.6 (193)
Avg. precipitation days (≥ 0.01 in)	2	2	3	2	2	2	6	7	4	3	2	2	37
<i>Source: NOAA^[3]</i>													

Cityscape

The Heart of Belen, as it has become known, is Belen's central business district and downtown, located along Becker and Dalies avenues, stretching from the BNSF rail yard to Main Street. Downtown Belen features historic structures dating back to the early 20th century when the railroad came into town.

The Belen Hotel and Central Hotel, both located on Becker Avenue, are two-story structures built to accommodate railroaders and other rail guests in the early 1900s. Both were constructed of bricks made from the former Belen brickyard.^[4] Today, the Belen Hotel has been converted into a private residence and private art gallery, while the Central Hotel is a winery and reception hall.

Old City Hall, also located on Becker Avenue, is a 1938 Works Progress Administration project, which housed the former Belen City Hall and fire department.^[4] The two-story building was constructed of terron, a material similar to adobe.

The Belen Harvey House is located within feet of the BNSF rail yard. It is a two-story building opened in 1907, one year before completion of the Belen Cutoff, to provide room and board to railroaders and others passing through.^[4] The original Belen rail depot is adjacent to the Harvey House grounds, owned by BNSF and used as office space for the railroad.

The Onate Theater, located on Dalies Avenue, was built in the early 20th century, showing many of the biggest marquee films. Today, the theater is a restaurant, known as Harla Mays, still with original theater seating and a movie screen.

Demographics

As of the census^[5] of 2000, there were 6,901 people, 2,596 households, and 1,778 families residing in the city. The population density was 1,463.1 people per square mile (564.5/km²). There were 2,952 housing units at an average density of 625.9 per square mile (241.5/km²). The racial makeup of the city was 67.50% White, 1.07% African American, 1.65% Native American, 0.17% Asian, 0.16% Pacific Islander, 25.39% from other races, and 4.06% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 68.61% of the population.

There were 2,596 households out of which 34.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 44.3% were married couples living together, 17.8% had a female householder with no husband present, and 31.5% were non-families. 26.2% of all households were made up of individuals and 10.6% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.61 and the average family size was 3.14.

In the city the population was spread out with 28.8% under the age of 18, 9.6% from 18 to 24, 25.5% from 25 to 44, 21.0% from 45 to 64, and 15.1% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 35 years. For every 100 females there were 91.5 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 90.4 males.

The median income for a household in the city was \$26,754, and the median income for a family was \$30,765. Males had a median income of \$26,551 versus \$21,300 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$12,999. About 23.2% of families and 24.8% of the population were below the poverty line, including 33.9% of those under age 18 and 18.2% of those age 65 or over.

Government and politics

Belen is governed by a mayor-council form of government. The governing body consists of an elected mayor and four elected councilors. The city also has an elected municipal judge. Belen has four appointed positions: city manager, police chief, fire chief and airport manager.

Culture

Annual festivals and other events

Belen is home to a number of annual cultural events, including the St. Patrick's Day Film and Flight Festival on the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day, Rio Abajo Days on the last Saturday in September, and the Miracle on Main Street Festival and Electric Light Parade on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

The Hispano Matanza, held annually in Belen on the last Saturday in January, is considered the world's largest matanza, a Spanish-style barbecue that can trace its origin back to the conquistadors. This New Mexico matanza tradition, hosted by the Hispano Chamber of Valencia County, involves slaughtering and cooking 45 pigs, then serving the free food, such as chicharrones, to more than 10,000 patrons. All of the proceeds are given as scholarships to local college students.

The Our Lady of Belen Fiestas, held annually in Belen during one weekend in mid-August, is an event that has been around for more than 220 years. The fiestas, or parties, draws thousands of people from across the state and country to Belen for religious observance, and to celebrate with a carnival, dancing and other fun. The

fiestas is held around the time Valencia County's green chile is ready for harvest, making its way as a garnishing in the famed hamburger Belenites call the "Fiesta Burger."

Museums

Belen has the only Harvey House Museum in New Mexico. The Belen Harvey House is the official railroad museum of the State of New Mexico and is a branch of the Belen Public Library.

Parks and outdoor attractions

Belen has seven parks and El Corazon de Belen Garden Park, a community garden.

Eagle Park is located near I-25 and Belen High School. It is Belen's multipurpose park, including several soccer fields, baseball fields, tennis courts, and an outdoor basketball court. Eagle Park also has a community center with a weight room, indoor basketball court, and a number of meeting rooms.

The historic Anna Becker Park, located in downtown Belen and named after the wife of Belen's most influential businessman, John Becker, was once a pond where residents ice skated in the winter.^[4] The grassy park includes a sand volleyball pit, basketball court, and historic gazebo.

Doodlebug Park features a restored Doodlebug rail car. The Doodlebug is known in Belen for shuttling Belen residents to Albuquerque during the first part of the 20th century. The Doodlebug at Doodlebug Park was restored by the production crew from the movie *The Last Stand*, which was filmed near the park, at the request of Lions Gate and Arnold Schwarzenegger, who starred in the film.

Belen is also home to Sen. Willie M. Chavez State Park, which is nestled next to the Rio Grande along Highway 309. Willie Chavez Park has walking trails, picnic grounds, and during special events, is open for camping. It is the site of Belen's annual ham radio operator event, as well as a fishing derby that takes place at the acequia, or irrigation canal, that runs through the park.

Media

Belen is home to the Valencia County News-Bulletin, a weekly news publication

covering all of Valencia County.

Eagle 98 FM is also located in Belen. The radio station plays oldies and other music throughout Valencia County.

Education

Public schools

Belen is within the Belen Consolidated Schools district, which includes one high school, one middle school and seven elementary schools. Belen Consolidated Schools also has an alternative high school and a family school for homeschooled students.

Private schools

Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church runs the private St. Mary's Catholic School, and Calvary Chapel Rio Grande Valley runs the private Calvary Chapel Academy Christian School.

Community college

Belen is serviced by the University of New Mexico Valencia Campus, located in Tome.

Transportation

Roads

Belen's western boundary is Interstate 25. Belen is intersected by New Mexico Highway 314 and Highway 309.

Airport

Belen has Valencia County's only public airport. Belen Alexander Municipal Airport is a regional general aviation airport. It primarily serves general aviation activity, including business activity from jet and multi-engine aircraft. Belen Alexander Municipal Airport is used by flight instructors, skydivers, crop dusters and recreational pilots, among others. A number of aviation-related businesses are located at the airport.

Rail

Belen is intersected by the rails of the BNSF Railway, which has both east-west and north-south routes through the city. The New Mexico Rail Runner Express also has a commuter rail station at the north end of the BNSF rail yard, shuttling residents and tourists to and from Belen on a daily basis and connecting with Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

Bicycle Routes

New Mexico Bike Route 1 follows Reinken Avenue through Belen. The route connects Belen with Bernardo, which is south of Belen.

Notable people

- Art "Golden Boy" Aragon, a professional Mexican-American boxer, was born in Belen
- Elfego Baca, a wild west gunman and lawman, lived in Belen
- Joe Baca, a U.S. representative in California, was born and raised in Belen
- Dennis Chavez, the late U.S. senator, lived and worked as a newspaper editor in Belen
- Tibo J. Chavez, the lieutenant governor of New Mexico from 1951 to 1955, lived at the Chavez Estate in Belen
- Judy Chicago, a renowned American feminist artist, lives in Belen
- Bobby Keys, a saxophone player for The Rolling Stones and other famous musicians, was raised in Belen
- Casey Luna, the lieutenant governor of New Mexico from 1991 to 1995, is a businessman from Belen
- Mike Nesbitt, a former punter for the New Orleans Saints and Minnesota Vikings, is from Belen
- Emilio Vallez, a tight end for the Chicago Bears drafted in 1968, is from Belen

References in popular culture

Movies

At least 17 movies have been filmed in Belen:

- Transcendence (2014)
- Sun Belt Express (2014)
- Two Men in Town (2014)
- As Cool As I Am (2013)
- The Last Stand (2013)
- 5 Shells (2012)
- Living Hell (2008)
- Swing Vote (2008)
- Have Dreams, Will Travel (2007)
- The Lost Room (2006)
- Bollocky Simper (2003)
- The Cowboy Way (1994)
- Convoy (1978)
- The Man Who Fell to Earth (1976)
- Mustang! (1973)
- Bunny O'Hare (1971)
- Gas-s-s-s (1971)

In the 1971 movie Bunny O'Hare, Belen appears in two scenes. In the first, Belen is referred to as Los Lunas, which is a neighboring town to the north, including a bank robbery scene in Belen showing the name "Bank of New Mexico: Los Lunas Branch." In the second, Belen is referred to as Belen when "Eagle Bank" is robbed across the street from the "Bank of New Mexico: Belen Branch."

For the 1994 movie The Cowboy Way, the Valencia County Sheriff's Posse Rodeo Arena in Belen was where Woody Harrelson and Kiefer Sutherland learned to rope before filming the movie. In the movie, Woody Harrelson's character, Pepper, is announced as a roper from Belen.

In the 2007 mini-series The Lost Room, Belen stands in for Washington, DC.

In the 2008 movie Living Hell, Belen is referred to as "Bennell."

In the 2008 movie Swing Vote, Belen's name is changed to "Texico."

In the 2013 movie The Last Stand, Belen's name is changed to "Summerton Junction" and is set in Arizona, not New Mexico.

In the 2013 movie As Cool As I Am, Belen is the name of the small town where the movie is set, featuring Belen's water tower with the name "Belen" on it.

Literature

At least two fiction novels have been written about Belen or involve Belen in their plot:

- The Belen Hitch by Pari Noskin Taichert (2006)
- So Far from God by Ana Castillo (1993)

References

- 1 [^] ^{*a b c d e f*} Andrew Hayes (1943). *150th Anniversary of the Founding of the Parish of Our Lady of Belen* (1st ed.). Belen, New Mexico: Our Lady of Belen.
- 2 [^] "US Gazetteer files: 2010, 2000, and 1990" (<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/gazetteer/gazette.html>). United States Census Bureau. 2011-02-12. Retrieved 2011-04-23.
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- 4 [^] ^{*a b c d*} Margaret Espinoza McDonald and Richard Melzer (2002). *Valencia County, New Mexico: History Through the Photographer's Lens* (1st ed.). Virginia Beach, Virginia: The Donning Company Publishers.
- 5 [^] "American FactFinder" (<http://factfinder.census.gov>). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved 2008-01-31.

External links

- City of Belen (<http://www.belen-nm.gov>)
- Belen Consolidated Schools (<http://www.beleneagles.org/>)
- Valencia County News-Bulletin (<http://www.news-bulletin.com>)
- University of New Mexico Valencia Campus (<http://vc.unm.edu/>)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Belen,_New_Mexico&oldid=596398234"

Categories: Cities in New Mexico Cities in Valencia County, New Mexico
Albuquerque metropolitan area

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What's new at

Ann O'Hara

Rio Communities

864-7891

RC Shopping Village scene of much activity

The new Rio Communities Shopping Village was the scene of much activity with the opening of several new business Tuesday, March 20.

The Rio Communities Branch of the First National Bank of Belen opened its doors at 9 a.m. to welcome new customers and well-wishers.

The branch personnel, Helen Kirby, branch supervisor, and Lucy Lenore, teller, both of RGE, and Ruby Waggoner from the main

office, were on hand tending to business and serving coffee and donuts. The decor is lovely and the service is very friendly.

Next to the branch bank is the beautiful new office of the Rio Communities Branch of the Valencia County Abstract and Title Company. Owner Frank Coplen, was busy greeting friends and custom-

ers.

Horizon Realty opened March 5 in Space 391 of the Shopping Village.

Broker R.B. Cullins is in charge with the assistance of Gladys De Lettera, secretary.

Salad bar is new speciality

Assistant manager Juergen Peters is introducing a new speciality in dining at Horizon Country Club. Featured will be a "help yourself" salad bar at all meals not served buffet style. Diners may mix their own salads from a variety of salad ingredients.

Arrive this week

A new shipment of tennis equipment will arrive in the Club Pro Shop this week.

Vacation

Mrs. Juergen Peters and Mrs. Paul Shepard recently returned from a two-week vacation in California.

80 attend

Eighty people attended the St. Patrick's Day party at Horizon Country Club last Saturday and danced to the music of Belenites Alfred and Anthony.

Art Symbol

In Christian art, the can-
delabrum with seven
branches, refers to the seven
gifts of the Holy Ghost, or to
the seven churches men-
tioned in the Book of Revela-
tions.

Historic tour switches to LL

The final phase of a public tour of historic homes is scheduled Sunday in the Los Lunas area, sponsored jointly by the area garden clubs and the Eastern Valencia County Bicentennial Commission.

On the afternoon tour, from 1 to 6 p.m., are the James Peoples' La Constancia home northeast of Valencia, and the historic St. Augustine Church and the museum art gallery at Isleta Pueblo.

The first of the two historic tours, consisting of

four homes in the Belen-La Joya area, attracted some 250 visitors last Sunday afternoon. Tickets are good for both tours, or new tickets may be acquired from garden club members at the two Los Lunas area homes next Sunday.

Margaret Meeker is president of the host El Jardin Encanto, Los Lunas Garden Club. Belen's Alkali Anns' Garden Club was host to last Sunday's tour. Assisting Mrs. Meeker are Alice Wilson, coordinator of hostesses; Roscille Wright, chairman of the home committees; and Connie Spieis, club secretary.

A third Los Lunas area home, the DeHass residence in the El Cerro community, was withdrawn from the

tour because of illness in the family.

Red and white pom poms will mark the location of the tour homes again Sunday. Tickets may be purchased at the door at each place from garden club members.

Colorful brochure depicts 'Hub City'

A 4-color brochure, with emphasis on Belen as a desirable place to live, has just been printed for the Chamber of Commerce.

Recreation, education and industry are stressed in the 12-page 14-picture multi-color pamphlet. 10,000 copies were ordered, courtesy of the First National Bank of Belen. Color photographs are by Tom Dunbar, local photographer.

Norma Chavez, the Chamber's executive secretary, told directors at their weekly luncheon meeting Tuesday noon, that the Belen brochure is "the best in the state."

The front cover in four colors displays three scenes, a dune buggy on the desert with the sunset in the background, a partial view of the Cannon Craft Mfg. Co. plant,

and two students sitting on the front lawn at the entrance to the Rio Grande Center of the University of Albuquerque.

The 12-page brochure contains 14 local scenes, including a panorama, close up view of the Manzano mountains to the east; with part of the Belen community in the forefront; a picture of a flight of geese over the Rio Grande; the historic Isleta Catholic church; a picture of Horizon Country Club; a golf course shot, a high school patio scene with students pictured informally; a residential scene, a horseback riding scene on slope of the west mesa, a pastoral valley farm scene, the Cattle-men's Livestock Auction Co. sales building and a Santa Fe Railway scene.

RC population now stands at 1424

The population of Rio Communities is now an estimated 1,424 with 634 dwelling units and 18 single family homes under construction.

The combined population of Horizon Corporation's two New Mexico communities topped the 4800 mark in the month of May, according to figures released this week by the firm's Assistant to the Vice-President for Development, James D. Nevin.

The estimated total population of the Rio Communities outside Belen climbed to 1424, while that of Paradise Hills just outside Albuquerque increased to 3416, bringing the total population of both projects to an estimated 4840 people.

There are at present more than 1500 dwelling units constructed at both sites, and another 33 are under construction.

At Rio Communities, there

are a total of 634 dwelling units: 414 single family homes, 117 Horizon Patio Homes, 72 mobile home units at the Vista del Rio Mobile Home Park and 31 apartment units. Another 18 single family homes are under construction.

EVNRCD meeting

Tuesday in LL

The regular monthly meeting of the East Valencia Natural Resource Conservation District will be held on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., at the Soil Conservation Service office in Los Lunas.

MORE FOOD STAMPS

The Senate has voted significant increases in federal contributions to the food stamp and school lunch programs.

Building Belen Cut-off Is Told in Magazine

SANTA FE — The story of railroad construction in New Mexico is a story of desert wastes, of blistering heat and of freezing blizzards; of hell-for-breakfast tent towns where the wolves gathered to feast on the lambs, according to Lee Myers, in the April issue of New Mexico Magazine.

Back in 1879, the Santa Fe Railroad entered New Mexico from the north by way of the Raton Pass, and had to climb two mountains before it reached Albuquerque. A fabulously rich cornucopia of West Coast merchandise and oriental imports was awaiting eastern markets, and the Santa Fe needed a new easier route in order to compete with other railroad lines for this business. The Belen cut-off was started in 1902 as part of a new route from Florence, Kansas and rejoining the main line at Puerco.

Quoting T. T. Tuley, who was a civil engineer on the construction job, Mr. Myers writes: "Life was rugged and crime was inevitable. Morning often revealed a

dead man lying somewhere in camp, his valuables gone and identification missing. Water was scarce, supplies had to be hauled long distances, and winter storms were severe."

Lee Myers has had a lifetime of experience around the West in building and mining operations, and took up Southwestern history as a hobby. He writes:

"On July 1, 1908, after six long years of vexing problems, the spur was incorporated into the Santa Fe system. The new line was only a handful of miles shorter than the old, but at an altitude 1100 feet lower so that fuel and maintenance was drastically reduced. When the newspapers at the time commented that the Santa Fe Railroad had spent millions of dollars to save a quarter of a mile, the railroad answered, "Yes, but the quarter of a mile was straight up!"

"Building the Belen Cut-off" is one of eight articles offered in the coming issue, now on the newsstands.



Staff Photo by Gary Herron

About 30 local firefighters battled the intensely-burning blaze until assuming control around 3 a.m.

Arson Suspected In Downtown Blaze

BELEN—Flames dancing 50 feet and higher off some creosote-soaked railroad ties sent about 30 local firefighters scurrying early Sunday morning to the old Becker-Dalies building on Main Street.

When the fire departments arrived on the scene, they reportedly found blazes in four different locations, making the origin of the blaze highly suspicious.

George Gabaldon, owner of the property, estimated that "nearly two-thirds" of the 16,000 ties piled there had been destroyed by the 1 a.m. fire.

With a retail value of \$7 apiece, Gabaldon's total uninsured loss comes to some \$75,000.

Departments responding to the fire were from Rio Grande Estates, Los Chavez, Jarales-Pueblitos-Bosque and Belen. Traffic on Main Street was detoured and a fair-sized crowd, many in night robes, watched from across the

street.

The historic Becker-Dalies building sustained no damage, although an electrical transformer nearby shorted out and sent sparks flying.

There were no injuries reported, but some firemen required oxygen.

Clean-up operations continued yesterday afternoon, with smoke wafting upwards towards the heavens for most of the day.

7,000-Year-Old Artifacts Uncovered

Special to The New York Times

BELEN, N.M., Dec. 16 —

Artifacts of an apparently unknown prehistoric Indian culture that existed in the Rio Grande Valley about 7,000 years ago have been uncovered by field workers at the University of New Mexico's Comanche Springs archeological dig, near here.

In announcing the discovery this week, Dr. Frank C. Hibben, professor of anthropology at the university, under whose direction the site is being excavated, said that some of the artifacts are characteristic of many of the prehistoric cultures of the Ice Age.

"The findings to date include a quantity of projectile points and fragments of points, crude stone knives and a curious type of stone scraper" said Dr. Hibben, who explained that his estimate of the age of the artifacts was based on the depth of the deposit of the animal bones found with them.

The projectile points were found among layers of the bones of 40 bison similar to a species that is believed to have died out 7,000 years ago.

Based on pollen-types in the material at the level in which the points were found, "the landscape of the day was one of a very muddy pond," Dr. Hibben said.

"Water lillies, cattails and

willows and other plants grew at the water's edge and the hunters probably ambushed the 2,000-pound bison as they came to drink. They probably dressed the skins there, throwing the residue into the water. We have some 20 feet of deposits on top of this, which represents a considerable span of time."

The 100-acre Comanche Springs tract has yielded ancient Pueblo sites at a fortified hacienda of Spanish colonial vintage. The layering of the levels—like the leaves of a book—provides a virtually foolproof method for placing the

different cultures relative to each other in the span of time, Dr. Hibben asserted.

He said that about 20 feet below the present ground level was "a layer of camel and mammoth skeletons, with very good bone preservation, and Ice Age human implements."

An amateur archeologist from Washington, who is interested in discovering the skeleton of an Ice Age man came out here and presented us with a \$5,000 check. There is nothing like hoping that the elusive skeleton of the Ice Age man himself might be found in that layer," he concluded.

1981 25¢

Efforts

Fire Destroys Railroad Ties

A fire that destroyed 10,000 railroad ties at a Belen construction company, "had all the earmarks of arson," Fire Chief Paul Ray said Monday.

Firefighters battled the blaze for about 14 hours after it was reported about 1 a.m. Sunday. It was confined to piles of railroad ties stacked in a yard outside the George Gabaldon Construction Co. in Belen.

Ray said there were three separate fires — one in a northwest corner of the lot, one in a southwest corner, and the third along the west side of the lot.

About two-thirds of the 15,000 railroad ties in the yard were destroyed. Damage estimates were placed at \$40,000.

Belen firefighters were assisted by fire units responding from Rio Grande Estates, Jarales Pueblitos, and Los Chavez.

...night though. ...ndent Mary Sanchez sug- ...city go to the Legislature

...said the city does intend to go ...Legislature for help and if ...successful the money will be ...to the entities who agreed to the ...proposal.

...Garcia said the problem with waiting ...the next session of the Legislature ...is that the city would lose too much ...time in its request for the bulk of the ...funding from Congress.

The Belen councilman said they ...would like to go to the state's con- ...gressional delegation as soon as possi- ...ble with the local financial support ...secured.

He explained that after the con- ...gressional wheels are in motion, the ...city will then go to the Legislature to ...try to secure funds. If the Legislature ...comes through then the local support ...funds could be released.

Congressional funding would pay ...most of the cost for a flood control ...project. The local entity must pay for ...all property and "right-of-way acqui- ...sitions and any relocation costs.

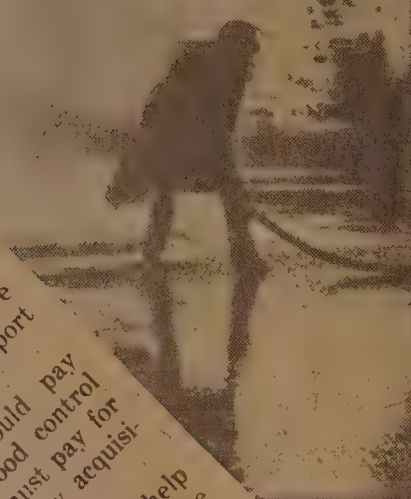
Garcia said the city is seeking help ...from the four other entities because ...the city can't do it alone" and "we're ...Please Turn to Page 21

nt After Escape

A bloodhound had been sent to the ...area along the ditchbank, not far from ...where a footprint and broken brush ...had been seen. The effort proved fruit- ...less, and the dog was taken back to the ...Barboa Park area.

May was apprehended by Honor ...Farm guard Robert Tenorio. ...Tenorio later said "I used to live ...there and I knew the area." ...Unfortunately, "When I apprehend...

by Gary Herron



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1960



UNDER CONSTRUCTION - The BLAC medical center, facing Sixth street between Becker and Dalies avenues, will look like this when completed around April 1. The four-unit structure will provide offices for Dr. W. J. Cote, dentist, on the right; Dr. Arthur W. Llewelyn, D.O.; and Dr. R. E. Brubaker, D.O.; plus one unit for rent, on the south. Work has begun Dec. 10 and the foundation is about poured, following excavation. K. L. Snellgrove, Albuquerque, is the general contractor; with Belen Sand and Gravel

providing the concrete; Joe Garcia, Belen, is doing the electrical work; and "Ted" Torres, Los Padillas, the plumbing. Estimated cost is \$100,000. Stockholders of the newly formed corporation are the three prospective occupants and Druggist Elmer Atwood, who owns the Buckland Pharmacy across the street to the north. (Drawing provided by courtesy of Architect Wm. W. Ellison, 324 Yale SE, Albuquerque).

Cannon Craft Will Close Belen Area Plant July 1

BELEN - The Cannon-Craft manufacturing plant, located five miles southeast of Belen in the Horizon Corp. Industrial Park, will close July 1, said J. T. Sandridge, the last in a line of eight plant managers since operations began in October, 1973.

"I hate to see it happen, but the plant is losing too much money," he commented, saying that he was sent from the firm's head office in Sulphur Springs, Tex., in December to "try to pull the plant out of trouble, but it was too far gone. And I've been in the business for 27 years."

Another plant is operating in Los Angeles.

Fifteen personnel serving as molder operators, chop saw operators and forklift drivers remain in the \$1 million plant in order to use up scraps. Materials left from July 1, the manager stated, will be shipped to the Texas plant.

Sandridge said he will take 14 of the remaining employees with him on his new job as plant manager for Craftline in Albuquerque.

The 125,000 square foot facility located on a 20.87-acre site was financed by industrial

revenue bonds approved by the City of Belen.

"The city won't consume any loss. The bonds are an instrument of the law that allows businesses to borrow money from the city," Richard Aragon, Belen city manager, said.

A railroad spur was extended from the Santa Fe Railway line to the plant site shortly before its opening.

Initial projections to hire as many as 300 people were made upon the opening. In April of 1976, however, the 72 workers initiated a strike for better working conditions and higher wages.

After negotiations with the Southwest Council of Industrial Workers, an affiliate of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, AFL-CIO, failed to mediate personnel-management differences, and the door line manufacturing at the plant was transferred to Texas.

Last March, half of the 80 employees were released due to cuts in production.

The plant, in full production, manufactured movable louvered shutters, fixed louvered shutters, frame shutters, Castillian shutters, fixed louvered multi-fold doors and movable louvered multi-fold doors.

A \$2.3 million shopping center, consisting of four major stores and perhaps a dozen small shops, will be built this summer on an 8.2 acre tract of land at Campbell Road and Reinken Avenue (River Road), on the east side of Belen.

Occupants of the proposed new Del Rio Plaza, described as the largest shopping center between Albuquerque and Las Cruces, will include a new Safeway super-market, a new T.G. & Y. Family Center, a Thrifty Drug & Discount store, a large unidentified softgoods store and 17,900 square feet of floor space for the small shops.

The overall development will contain 106,636 square feet of floor space under roof, a patio mall, a heavily landscaped center, and paved parking for 474 automobiles. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-May, with completion anticipated by Oct. 1.

Developers are James A. Peterson and Gary L. Watson, Albuquerque Shopping Center developers. Joe Milavec, Peralta realtor, was the broker acquiring the land for the development, most of which was purchased from William A. Taylor, local railroader, and Lucy Padilla, Belen. The architect is Dyer-McClernon of Albuquerque.

"We believe in the use of heavy landscaping," Watson said. The architecture will be southwestern, with use of slump rock, a deep overhang and canopies," he continued. "We are stressing the convenience of parking for the customers," he added.

The development will set on the site in a somewhat rectangular manner, with the main structure extending north to south. On the east side, facing west, will be Safeway, T. G. & Y. and the proposed softgoods store, with Thrifty Drug somewhat to the west, facing south. The smaller shops will be scattered in between. These will include such shops as a ladies dress, men's, ice cream and financial.

The Thrifty Drug Store will be the sixth planned in New Mexico by a Los Angeles based company which owns 425

stores in the western part of the United States. The firm carries a general line of merchandise, comparable to other well known discount stores.

Other stores in New Mexico include two in Albuquerque, one in Gallup, one in Farmington and a proposed new store in Clovis.

The space allotted to the four majors consists of 30,000 square feet for T. G. & Y., about three times the size of Belen's present store; 25,000 square feet for the new Safeway store, about double the present store; 21,440 square feet for the Thrifty firm; and 14,000 square feet for the softgoods store.

Monday, June 4, 1973

Search for oil underway near Los Lunas Mountain

A search for substrata findings conducive to locating oil is currently underway on the mesa west of I-25 and south of Los Lunas High School.

Shell Oil Co. presently has a number (3-5) seismograph rigs drilling pattern formation holes in the area of Los Lunas Mountain.

A Shell spokesman said the drilling crews had nearly completed their work and dynamite crews would be sent here in about two weeks to set charges which create vibrations and shock waves to produce seismograph readings to help geologists prepare the substrata maps.

The Shell Spokesman said a lot of money was being put into the search for oil in Eastern Valencia Co. as well as other parts of the state.

He said a well would be drilled in East Valencia during the coming year but the site had not yet been determined.

The shortages reported are not just rumor, they really exist, he said, and "we need to find new producing wells."

Two wells have already been dug in East Valencia Co. during the past several years, he noted, and both were

dry.

The spokesman also said the seismo-

graph testing was done in the Isleta Pueblo area during March and April.

ON NEW \$400,000 STRUCTURE

OLB construction to begin in two weeks

Construction on a new \$400,000 church structure for the Our Lady of Belen parish is expected to begin within the next two weeks after a low bid was informally accepted at a Parish Council meeting Wednesday at the Archdiocese office in Albuquerque.

Fr. Castillo declined to give the exact monetary figure of the bid because some design alternatives are still being considered, but he did state the figure would be in excess of \$400,000.

A Belen firm, the Rio Grande Construction Co., is expected to get the job although a contract has not been

formally signed as yet, said Fr. Castillo.

The new church will be designed with the intent of getting the people closer to the altar and will consequently be wider than the old funnel shaped church, said Castillo. The new structure is designed to hold 1,000 occupants and will have an exterior of white slump rock with a red roof.

Architects plans call for completion of the project within 190 days after the start of construction.

The Spanish style building will be situated in the same spot as the old church, said Fr. Castillo.

Thursday, June 21, 1973



**MAP
OF THE
BELEN TOWN SITE**

OWNED BY

**The Belen Town and Improvement Company,
John Becker, President and General Manager
Valencia County New Mexico.**

Belen Growth Slight

BELEN—According to the preliminary Census Bureau report, Belen's population is 5,035, an increase of only 212 persons or 4.4 percent over the 1970 figure.

Maintaining that Belen's population figure should be much higher, City Manager Bonifacio Lopez said the city will probably protest the findings.

Although these figures are unofficial, preliminary counts, Lopez said the official counts, when they come in, are usually roughly the same.

According to the census report there are 2,111 housing units in Belen with 290 of them vacant. The housing units figure in Belen increased 22.8 percent over the 1970 figure of 1,719.

The Census Bureau figures directly

conflict with those compiled by Patty Sais, director of the Greater Belen Economic Development Committee and a population survey taken by the city of Belen in 1977.

According to the demographic profile taken by Sais, the population of Belen should be 8,261. She estimates her figures on the number of Public Service Company of New Mexico meters in June, 1980.

The figures are based on each meter representing one household. That number is then multiplied by 3.8, the estimated number of persons per household.

In the 1977 survey taken by the city, the population of Belen was estimated

to be 7,261 in 2,016 households.

The Census Bureau does not have a procedure for review. According to the bureau it will "review questions based on local sources of data such as residential utility connections, residential property tax records, a summary of residential demolitions and building permits for a given area, housing counts based on aerial photography, results from a field canvass and address lists.

"Because of time and resource constraints, the Census Bureau cannot check an area solely on the general feeling that a count appears to be too low or too high," the bureau letter to the local government entities added.

FEB 20 1975 News-Bulletin, Belen, New Mexico



68 YEARS AGO . . . This view of Coronado Ave., Belen, looking west is dated April 3, 1907. The old picture was sent to us by Mrs. Cecil Wilson of Truth or Consequences. Mrs. Wilson is a sister of Mrs. Ola Keeney, 600 North Fourth Street, Belen.

Lee Oxsheer of Los Lunas Named Winner of Santa Fe's Scholarship

Lee Oxsheer of Los Lunas and Harold Cross of Portales have been named winners of the Santa Fe Railroad scholarships for Future Farmers of America by L. C. Dalton, state supervisor, agricultural education, University Park.

Scholarships will be presented by Ronald I. Cross, Santa Fe agricultural agent, Amarillo, Tex., at the awards dinner during the state meeting of the New Mexico Future Farmers of America in Albuquerque, June 8.

Lee Oxsheer, 17, is the son of Mrs. Myrtle Oxsheer, rancher near Los Lunas. His father died in 1947. Lee graduated from Los Lunas High School this May. Like young Cross, he started in the vocational agricultural program at his school when he was a freshman. For his second and third years, he transferred to Highland School in Albuquerque in which there was no vocational agriculture, but for his senior year, in which he purchased half interest in his mother's ranching business, he transferred back to Los Lunas.

Oxsheer ranks 14th in a class of 70 at Los Lunas High School. He has served his FFA chapter as Chairman of the Cooperative Activities Committee and as Chapter Reporter.

Green Valley Estates Plans Suburban Homes

One-acre homesites and a shopping district are included in the plans of the newly organized "Green Valley Estates, Inc.," located two miles north of the Belen Bridge over the Rio Grande and on State Hwy. 47.

The 170 acres purchased is known as the Major Dean place and the land was bought from Frank Gentry.

Roads will be built in the subdivision, it was announced.

A barbecue will be held in about two weeks to familiarize the public with the advantages of suburban living at Green Val-

ley Estates.

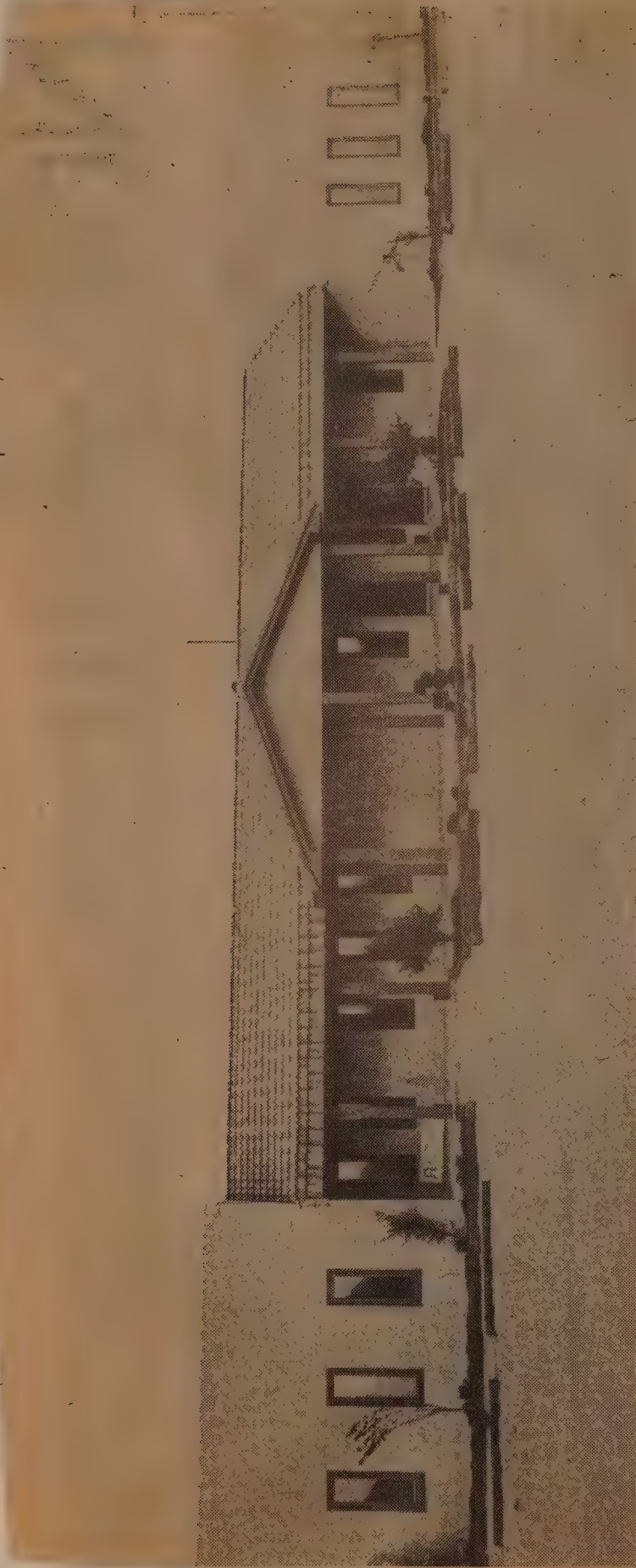
This is the first time in Belen's history, a spokesman said, that a group of businessmen have organized for establishing a residential community.

Incorporators are:

Harry and Lee Auge, Denis Cowper, Bill Stone, Elton Carroll, Austin Lovett, B. C. Ringer, A. S. Atkinson, Herbert Ellermeyer and Henry Salazar.

The officers are:

Lee Auge, president.
Henry Salazar, vice president.
Austin Lovett, treasurer.
Denis Cowper, secretary.



NEWS-BULLETIN Photo

New Homes

Now occupying space in this adobe style 5,130 square foot building are three Belen area businesses—Koch and Associates, realtors and home-builders; Cameo SpringCrest Draperies; and Drs. Daniel Ludwig and Jeff Watson, dentists. Located on Rio Communities Boulevard in Tierra del Sol,

the building was constructed by George Koch and Associates with occupancy during the summer. A bright red tile roof caps off the addition to the community.

Page 6 Thurs., June 24, 1976

The News-Bulletin

BOX 25

516 Baca Avenue

Entered as second class matter at the post office in Belen,
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BELEN, NEW MEXICO 87002

Belen 864-4472, Albuq. 865-9420

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Belen in 1776

There were some 50 families in Belen in 1776, the year that marked the beginning of the United States. Belen had been founded in 1740, 36 years earlier. Some a year earlier . . . in 1739.

In the year 1776, on order from the Viceroy of New Mexico, the Marquis de Rubi made a personal inspection and survey of Spain's frontier provinces in New Spain, including New Mexico, and in his report is found the following reference:

"On the 10th day of August, 1776, we traveled from Las Nutrias to the pueblo of La Limpia Concepcion, called Tome, and also Fuenclara; six leagues opposite the pueblo of Belen, with 37 families, both Genizaros and Spaniards --- all kinds of grains around and plenty of sheep . . ."

The actual population of these settlements at this period is difficult to fix. Records are not in accord. Florence Hawley Ellis, in the New Mexico Historical Review of April, 1935, quotes Father Bernal, then stationed at Belen. He states there were under his jurisdiction 36 families of Genizaros and 14 half-breed families.

(Excerpt from the book, "El Rio Abajo.")

Dismantling underway at communication site

The Federal Government's abandoned underground communication site on the mesa west of Belen is being dismantled in part and an undetermined number of owners will share in the distribution.

Owners Roy Lemons, El Cerro, and Leonard Castillo, Belen, began the heavy dismantling work Monday.

One buried quonset hut and four large storage tanks are being removed for sale. The other quonset hut will remain underground for possible lease for storage.

The south 25 x 150 foot building, with a 13-foot ceiling, will remain intact. It will be excellent for storage of food," Lemons said. "We will look for an assor."

The buried storage tanks,

now being uncovered and removed, consist of two 25,000-gallon water tanks, one 34,000 and one 7,500 gallon diesel oil tanks.

Some 30,000 feet of installed three-inch water lines were sold earlier by Lemons and Castillo to Rancher Weldon Burris, on whose land the installation was originally built, back about 1961. The owners still possess graveled road easements to the two quonset hut installation, about three miles apart.

The buyers also own 2½ acres of land on which the south quonset hut is located, but the one being removed, to the north, is on land owned by Rancher Burris. Thus, this hut, 25 x 200 feet, is being uncovered and removed and will be sold.

Originally, both huts were buried underground with mounds of dirt covering both. Both huts were used for some 10 years as an interntional communications facility, served by some 50 military personnel and equipped with sophisticated electronics equipment.

The government discontinued the operation about 1970, and for two years, New Mexico Tech leased the facility for earthquake testing. The General Services Administration recently advertised the installation for public sale. There were several bidders, with Lemons awarded the sale on a bid of \$18,010.



THE WOMAN smiling is Mrs. William Taylor of Campbell Road and the man on her left is Gary Watson and on the right is Jim Peterson of Peterson-Watson developers in Albuquerque. Mrs. Taylor and her husband recently sold their land on the corner of River and Campbell Roads to the developers for the Del Rio Shopping Center. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Monday for the new shopping center which is expected to be completed in mid-October or early November.

"For evil to triumph, it is only necessary for good men to do nothing." - Edmund Burke

EDITORIALS

A great place to live

This middle Rio Grande Valley in which we reside certainly deserves the word "fantastic" as a description.

True, some very cold weather is experienced at times. However, the past few days of spring warmth bring back to mind the continual variety and contrast of this valley in which we live and make our homes.

The spring winds will blow as was experienced beginning Monday afternoon. ~~But myself having resided here since a small~~ child and yet having visited states throughout the U.S., I always feel a surge of home when the Sandias or Manzanos come into view.

It is a delight to drive only a couple of miles to get away from residential areas and view desert and mountains. Belen is no longer a sleepy little town as it might have been termed when first I came to live here as a child of eight in 1947.

The opening of the new Del Rio Plaza Shopping Center brought to mind the hustle of a busy city. Yet the people of El Rio Abajo remain much the same - friendly and greeting friends and acquaintances with interest and expressed enjoyment.

We still remain on first name terms whether professional, blue collar workers, farmers, ranchers or laborers.

Having visited many other parts of this country, I have yet to find a place with the sincere lack of prejudice among so many and the true friendliness of the majority.

It would be impossible to say that cultural prejudices do not exist, but certainly not in the degree found elsewhere in this state or nation. Many of us have attended school together, visited frequently in each others homes and become a part of social groups. My last name may be so-called "anglo" but I am more familiar with the spelling of Baca, Chavez, Jaramillo, Luna, etc., than any other cultural or common ethnic names.

Most of us reared in this valley seldom think or concern ourselves with the ethnic origin of somebody's last name. I do not even think about this unless brought to my attention by another person. Besides, I often wonder what "anglo" really means. For me, it has little connotation as my distant ancestors were most probably Dutch German, German, Welsh, British and a melting pot of other countries.

Pinto beans and chili are staples in my home because this was the way of life in which I was reared.

We certainly have problems at times in this valley, but we also have some very important things going for us--a relatively low percentage of prejudice, a friendly, easy going style of life, a beautiful and versatile land which changes even from day to day, lifetime friends and a way of life that many unfortunately will never be able to experience.

It would be great to keep most of our residents shopping at home and working towards facilities and clean industries to keep our young people here in El Rio Abajo.

The continuation of our unique lifestyle is up to every resident and businessman. It is important to many of us who have lived most of our lives in this valley.

Let us continue to work together as friends despite occasional disputes and differing of opinions.

This is our Valley, the El Rio Abajo, to preserve and yet allow for the necessary growth to provide employment for the residents and youngsters now growing up.

It will be well worth the effort. The main consideration is the continuance of unity among the residents of El Rio Abajo.

(Lil Gillett)

Unofficial Belen 'Census' Sets Population at 7,261

BELEN—There are 7,261 people living in Belen if a recent unofficial "census" conducted by the city is correct.

The "census," conducted by part-time summer employees for the most part, turned up a total of 2,016 households and the report compiled by the city revealed that every one of those households, except 11, were contacted to gain the population figures.

Altum Sentencing Set for Wednesday

LOS LUNAS—District Court Judge Joe Galvan will pronounce sentence on William Altum Wednesday for the murder of Lollie Tipton.

Altum pled guilty to second-degree murder June 29. He had been charged with abduction and murder as well as two counts of assaulting two customers at the Circle K store where Tipton worked.

Following his guilty plea the remaining charges were dropped.

Galvan ordered Altum to undergo tests at the state mental hospital in Las Vegas following his plea.

Tipton was abducted in February and it was a map drawn by Altum and handed over to his attorneys in late June that finally led to the recovery of her body in Bernalillo County.

Accurate census figures are important because they are used when applying for state and federal grants and for revenue sharing purposes.

The city's "census" shows that women slightly outnumber men, 3,650 to 3,611. Only in the youngest (0-5) and the oldest (60 and over) age groups are there more males than females, 437-407 and 727-585, respectively.

Other age groupings show the following figures, females listed first: 6-12, 529-511; 13-19, 581-528; 20-29, 587-526; 30-59, 961-882.

City Manager Richard Aragon said the "census" dealt only with population and age figures and that it did not go into personal questions such as religion, schooling, race, etc.

Contact at the households was made either in person or by telephone. Of the 11 houses not included there was no answer after repeated attempts to contact the residents, Aragon said.

Weather

TEMPERATURES

Date	High	Low
Thursday (8-18)	90	65
Friday (8-19)	89	64
Saturday (8-20)	86	64

FORECAST—Isolated thunder showers in the afternoons with only very localized significant rainfall. Little daily temperature change. Highs near 90. Lows in the low 60's.

Belen Cable TV Awarded To Radio Station Owner

By Paul Noskin

BELEN — Belen Cablevision, owned mostly by Bill Brooks, owner of KARS Radio and a member of the Belen planning and zoning commission, was awarded the Belen cable television rights Monday night.

Belen Cablevision had been competing with three other companies, Mickelson Media, Valley Cablevision and Middle Rio Grande Video, for the Belen cable franchise.

The franchise was awarded at the regular meeting of the Belen City Council Monday night in a vote which lasted only a minute. Councilman Hank McCormick made the motion for Belen Cablevision and the vote was unanimous.

In other action taken by the council, Lucy Padilla was granted some proper-

ty that the city had abandoned and was not putting to use.

The council also passed a resolution expressing their support for a community college which would include the teaching of vocational skills. State Rep. Ron Gentry is sponsoring that legislation.

Joe Pena, director of public works, then asked the council to consider purchasing some land adjacent to city land to be used for housing city vehicles. The land is currently occupied by Tabet Lumber and would cost the city \$10,000 plus eight percent interest. The council approved of the purchase.

The county made a request to the city that the city lease a parcel of land on which to build a ballpark. After some discussion the city finally agreed

[Please turn to Page 2]

News-Bulletin, Belen, New Mexico

Chamber handles almost 500 communications

What does the Belen Chamber of Commerce do?

Vice President Bud Jenkins gave a partial report to directors at their weekly luncheon meeting Tuesday noon at Big Jack's restaurant.

The Chamber office on Becker Avenue handled an average of almost 500 com-

munications each for the past 12 months. Included were 210 phone calls, 160 "walk-in" inquiries, 70 pieces of outgoing mail and 55 pieces of incoming mail.

In addition, the office has handled about 200 contacts in connection with the Cannon Craft Mfg. Co., and other miscellaneous work.

1968

Label Bldg ¹²³

ENOUGH TO SHAKE anybody up, this war-like scene silhouettes Belen youngsters hastening past the smoldering ruins burning since Saturday on Main Street. Mayor Neel Alexander said "It won't burn beyond today (Wednesday)," when asked by the NEWS about complaints from citizens. Fire broke out shortly after workmen began razing the structure condemned by the city. Police reported the blaze "under control" Saturday. The time exposure photo was made Tuesday night. (NEWS photo)

Plan Wildcat In Valencia

Location has been made for a new wildcat oil test in Valencia County, where several dry holes have been drilled in the past two years.

The new test, according to Rinehart's Oil Report, has been designated the No. 1 Bond and will be drilled in Sec. 17-9N-14W, a few miles southeast of El Morro by S & S Producers, with Harold J. Sechler listed as agent.

This location is about 25 miles northwest of two unsuccessful Lucero Basin wildcats drilled about 30 miles south of Grants.

3 Basin Wildcats

Three new wildcat tests also have been scheduled for the San Juan Basin of New Mexico, including two on the Navajo Reservation.

Monday, April 21, 1969

Hard work, determination key to Livestock Commission man

R. E. Rockhold, secretary of the Belen Livestock Commission Company, is a self-made man. Rockhold had relatively nothing when he started out in life. Through hard work and a lot of determination Rockhold has worked his way into a position as secretary-treasurer of two livestock commissions and is a dairy cattleman on the side.

Rockhold said that the Belen Livestock Commission, which is a stockholding corporation, does a business volume in the excess of \$3,000,000 annually. Rockhold holds a controlling interest in the Belen commission and in Basin Livestock Commission of Durango, Colo.

The Belen commission company will be six years old April 20. "It takes a long time to build a business," said Rockhold. "However," he continued, "the potential for a business of this nature is limitless. But, we should be doing twice as much business as we are presently doing," he added.

The commission has a sale beginning at 11 a.m. every Saturday. The 20 employees, employed by the commission on sale days, work until the auction has been completed for that day.

It is the business of the commission to sell cattle and horses," said Pat Cugini, president of the commission. "We charge a commission fee for selling the cattle, thus you can see how we got the name for our company, Belen Livestock Commission Company, Inc.," Cugini explained.

Cugini continued: "the commission exists to auction and sell cattle. This is our business, it was purposely established to be an asset to the livestock community. If it was not an asset, it could not exist."



SALE BARN — The Belen Livestock Commission located north of Belen on Highway 85 is a beehive of activity each Saturday when the cattle sale is held, and buyers and sellers in a 250 mile radius gather there.



ROCKHOLD AND CUGINI — Secretary and president of the livestock commission are shown punching cattle as they prepare for the Saturday sale.



Albuquerque, New Mexico, Friday, March 6, 1959

Two Skeletons Found Buried In Garage

**Workmen Uncover
Bones at Belen
On Campbell Rd.**

By BOB BRASHEAR

BELEN, March 6 — Officials today launched an investigation of two skeletons found lying on newspapers buried beneath the floor of a garage at a Belen home.

Police Chief Elfego Baca and Albert Cornell, assistant district attorney, went to the home of J. L. Pitts on Campbell Rd. in Old Belen today to check the skeletons.

Workmen Discover

Chief Baca said workmen breaking up the floor of a garage at the Pitts place uncovered the skeletons yesterday.

Preliminary examination last night indicated that the skeletons were those of adults, he said.

It was also indicated that the skeletons had been buried "over 10 years," he said.

No Disturbance

There was no sign that the floor of the garage had been disturbed recently, he said.

Because of darkness the investigation last night was suspended and the garage locked until this morning.

Chief Baca said the bodies were buried about one foot

Vista del Rio mobile home park was held last night. The first phase of the park, which will be opened soon to the public, features 112 homesites for mobile homes next to a clubhouse.

A new nine-hole golf course, of standard size, is under construction.

A large new country club house, including a dining room, lounge, swimming pool, etc., is planned.

10 Apartments

Other suggested buildings include 10 apartments, possibly more motel rooms, and an estimated 50 additional houses.

Public Service Company's Belen division anticipates a 6.1 per cent growth in service connections next year after a 4.5 per cent jump this year.

Growth has dropped as low as one per cent in recent years.

The company added nearly 300 new customers in 1970, bringing the division total to 6,700, Earl Carr, manager said.

Rio Grande Estates growth sparks Belen utility gains

BELEN — A spectacular increase in utility installations due to the growth in this area is expected in 1971, the Belen News-Bulletin reported.

The increase started during the last nine months of 1970 and is expected to continue.

More Mobile Homes

Development at the Rio Grande Estates and Rio del Oro, east of Belen, and the rapid increase of mobile homes in the valley are sparking the economic growth of the area, the News-Bulletin said.

All three utilities, electric, natural gas and telephone companies, have recorded major increases in services this year, the News-Bulletin said in an economic roundup.

Officials of the three companies are planning for even greater growth during '71.

The City of Belen reported a gain of 50 new water customers in 1970, compared to 22 last year. Building permits amounted to \$371,150.

Rio Grande Estates Growth

At the Rio Grande Estates, momentous development is anticipated.

Horizon Corp. is already developing a million-dollar mobile homes installation, Vista del Rio.

A press preview of the new

See RIO GRANDE, Page A-5

Aerial view of the Heart of Belen

by the WPA workers during the depression.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2010

com.

Pedestrian bridge opens temporarily for Belen's First Footer's grand opening this Saturday

BY BRENT RUFFNER
News-Bulletin Staff Writer
bruffner@news-bulletin.com

BELEN

Saturday's grand opening of the pedestrian crossing meant to transport visitors from the New Mexico Rail Runner Express station to the downtown area will be held a week before the bridge is completed.

The First Footer's Festival, which will include a raffle to see who would be the first person over the Reinken bridge, was almost put on hold when contractors told officials the bridge wouldn't be done until Saturday, Dec. 18, a week after the festival.

The festival was meant to kick-off the opening of the bridge to the public after the first person walked over the bridge.

"We will still have a ceremony," said Andrew DiCamillo, Belen's planning and zoning director. "It's not completed. But there will be a walkover which will allow us to do that."

DiCamillo said a group of about 10 people will walk along with the first footer to ensure that safety precautions are taken. He said the bridge will again be closed until next week after the group walks across. The

festival is set for noon and will take place on Reinken Avenue between First and Second streets.

"I'm a little upset and I kind of let them have it," DiCamillo said of his conversation with contractors. "They have regular meetings at city hall and (Dec. 2) they told us they wouldn't be done on time."

The event is meant to kick-off the opening of the bridge that will bring passengers to the downtown area to places such as the Harvey House Museum and Pete's Café.

The drawing for the first footer will be at the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$1.

DiCamillo said the event will tie in with Whitfield's first anniversary and the first Festival of Trees event at the Harvey House. The event is also tied to the MainStreet Program, a federally funded program meant to revitalize older, traditional business districts in the city and to encourage economic development within the context of historic preservation.

In June, city and state officials held a ground breaking ceremony for the \$3 million bridge project, which was originally scheduled to be completed in mid-November.

The bridge, which sits 17-feet high along the Reinken Avenue overpass, has elements of the Harvey House incorporated into the design and will give residents access to the bridge from both ramps and stairs.

DiCamillo said he expects the project to be the start of good things to come for the MainStreet Program at the city of Belen. In the spring, he said, University of New Mexico students will do a study to identify a plan of how to improve upon existing businesses.

He said the city could get funding to fix up First Street in a project where the city would have to find a funding match. He said the city has about a year to come up with those funds.

"It's a real concern," DiCamillo said. "We do have time to put our needs together. Right now, we are searching."

But for now, DiCamillo hopes events like First Footers can spark a trend of regular city events that could generate revenue.

"We can always work out the bugs," DiCamillo said. "We want to partner with other agencies like (the Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce). The goal of MainStreet is to definitely sustain businesses in the area."

Miller sells station to Don

The Miller's Conoco and Firestone Store, 616 N. Main St., has been sold by Orville Miller, the proprietor for the last 28 years, to Don Parker of Albuquerque.

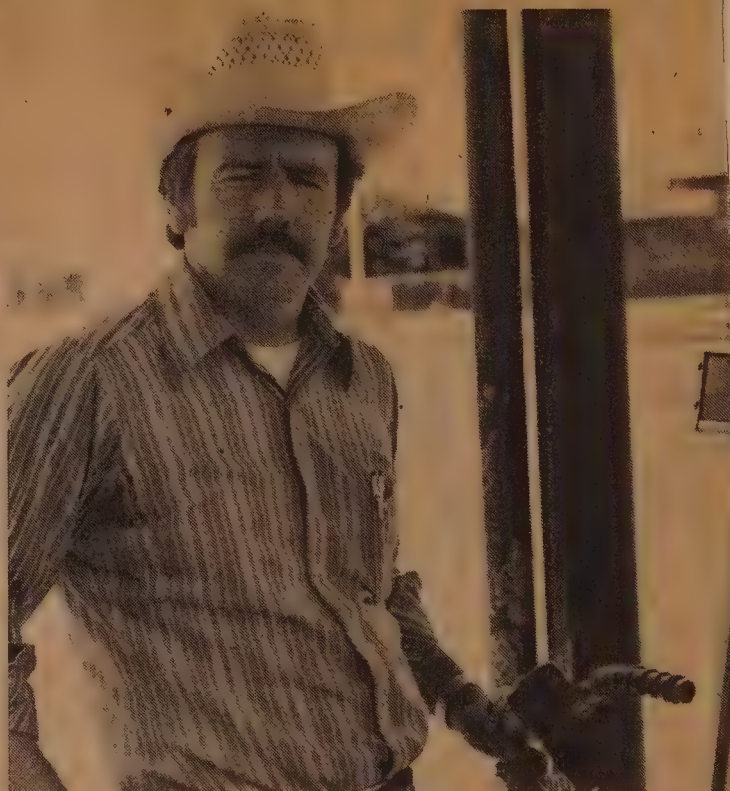
Parker will officially take over operations Sept. 1. Miller will be employed by the new owner for the first six months. Miller currently is on vacation in Kansas.

Owner Parker, a Firestone salesman for the past six years, says "Orville was my customer. We played golf together and he said he'd sell for the right price. I offered the right price."

On Aug. 25, Parker and his wife, Jane, and two children, David, 10, and Darcy, 8, will move to a patio home in Rio Communities. He has been employed by Firestone for six years, working in places like Phoenix, Seattle, Los Angeles and out of Albuquerque as New Mexico territorial salesman since March 1. He is originally from San Diego, Calif.

"The name will remain the same here for at least a year until I have established myself," Parker adds. "A lot of good will is in the Miller name. It will be basically the same people and Orville will work for me for six months. Changes will be subtle and gradual."

Parker said he's "looking forward to becoming part of the community. The Valley is



DON PARKER

a Garden of Eden in New Mexico as far as I'm concerned. They pump more gas here than any station in Belen and sell more tires than most Firestone company stores. I hope to build on that foundation. I hope to grow even bigger."

He adds that he opposes U.S. Congressional restrictions on gas prices. "The prices will fluctuate with the demand. They would be high initially and in time free enterprise would bring them down."

The service station is the first Parker has owned.

The chain at the were State Coun It wa togeth mnds ghw hnt w

Thursday, August 14, 1975



HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE YEARS.

Every church is the result of a plan, the vision, prayers and sacrifices of devoted Christians. In Belen the date 1922 marked the glorious fulfillment of Christ's prayer in John 17:21-23, in the unification of several Protestant Churches into a Federated Church in which nine denominations were listed in the charter membership; sometime later this generous Christian Spirit brought the number up to nineteen different denominations.

Prior to this time in 1894 the Evangelical Lutherans started a church in Belen. They erected the present edifice which we now occupy in 1910-11, and the parsonage in 1917.

As Belen grew in size it was noted that people of many religious backgrounds were moving into the city, but in most cases not in sufficient number to start their own denomination. A movement was started to unify these groups in a Community Federated Church. Mr. Hans Becker, Mr. Paul Dalies and Mr. P. P. Simmons formed a committee to explore the possibilities and proper procedures in establishing such a church. They enjoyed almost unanimous support from local church people. They secured the services of an experienced organizer the Rev. J. A. McGaughey, pastor of a Community Church in Imperial, California, he spent four weeks here in July 1922 perfecting the organizations. The last Sunday in July the effort resulted in the origin of the Federated Church in Belen. The largest groups were the Lutheran and Methodist Churches, they combined their buildings for use in facilitating the Sunday School, social events and etc.

(over)

(Continued from opposite side)

The venture marked a new day for Protestantism in Belen, and succeeded beyond the fondest expectations.

The first minister was a Presbyterian, the Rev. John P. Sinclair. Then followed three Methodist pastors - Revs. W. Grant Smith, Rev. Villars and Rev. D.A. Gregg.

A Lutheran pastor the Rev. Joseph Peterson served the longest period from 1935 - 1943.

An United Brethren pastor followed him, the Rev. Th C Berlekamp served the next four years.

In 1948 the Methodist Church withdrew from the Federation, taking over their property for denominational use. This made it necessary to enlarge the Lutheran edifice which had been used for worship services. So an Annex with Sunday school rooms, stage, kitchen, dining and assembly room was constructed, it was dedicated October 12, 1952.

Following the Methodist Church withdrawal, the next pastor called was a Presbyterian, the Rev. Dr. V.A. Woodworth in 1949. He had been serving a Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque.

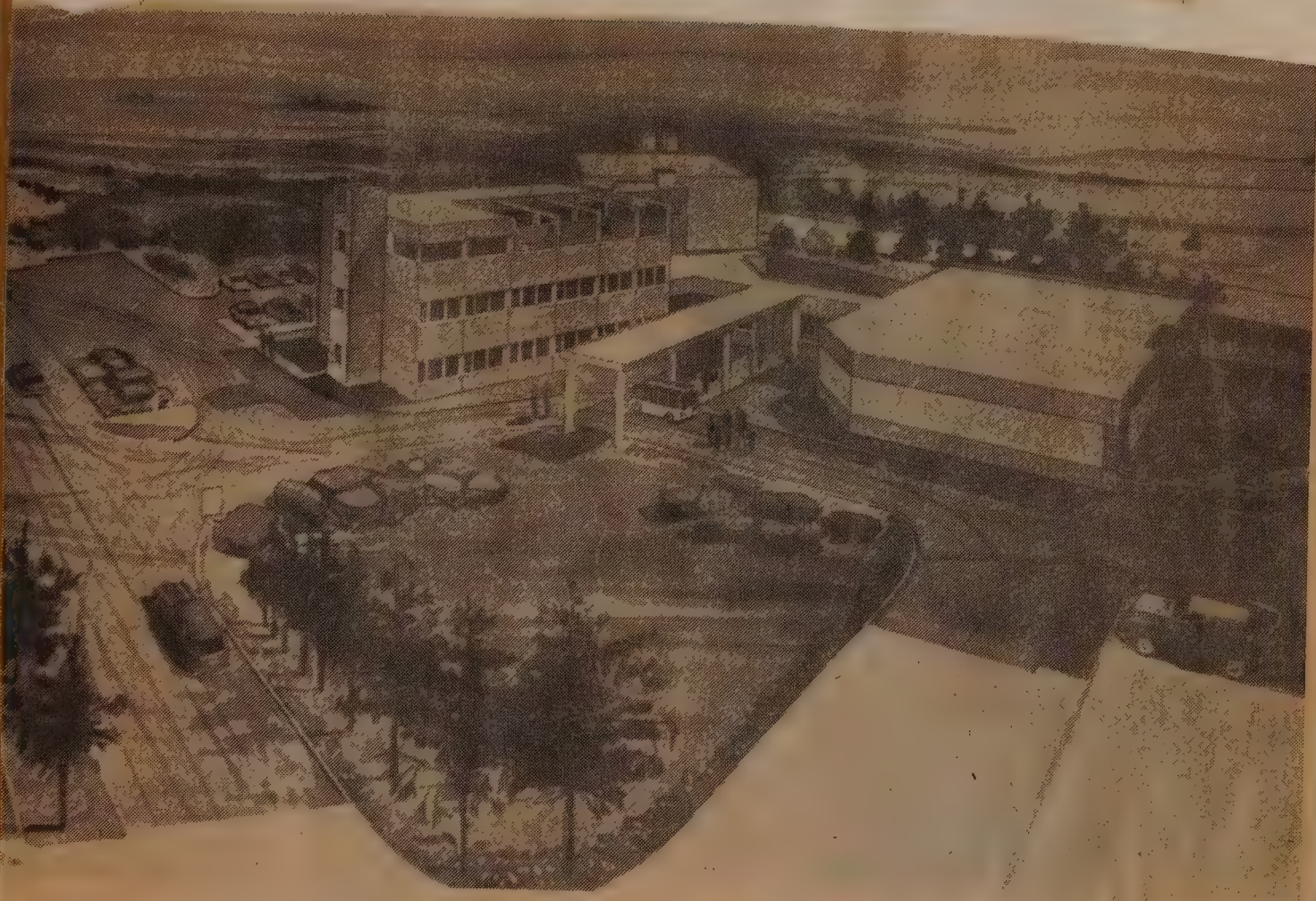
The Rev. Chester Frantz a Congregational minister followed Dr. Woodworth, remaining here until he felt the call to become a missionary, and is now in New Guiana.

A Conservative Baptist minister followed him to the pastorate, the Rev. Clarence Twigg. He recently felt it desirable to enter the Presbyterian Church, after serving a Baptist Church to which he had moved from here. He was ordained this summer as a Presbyterian.

In 1959 the church called the Rev. Howard E. Lacy a minister in the Congregational Church, as pastor. On this 40th anniversary he is still our minister.

God has blessed our organization across these forty years. We have a substantial membership. Have no debt. Many improvements have been made. We have a Sunday School, three youth groups, our own Church Camp; the active women's group the Friendship Circle; the Men's Fellowship organized two years ago. We are proud of our church and its progress across the years. We have one of the largest missionary budgets, per capita, in the city. Our future looks bright and growth sure.

Monday, January 19, 1976



ARCHITECT'S DRAWING of the Inn of Enchantment, a 51-unit motel which Dickson & Associates propose to construct along Highway 85 about a mile north of Belen.

Guest rooms would be in the wing to the left. Plans also include a dining room, a meeting room and a cocktail lounge.

\$1.6 million motel planned on Hwy. 85



Bicentennial 1776-1976

The News-Bulletin

P.O. BOX 25

516 Baca Avenue

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CARTER M. WAID, Editor and Publisher



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It will be well worth the effort. The main consideration is the continuance of unity among the residents of El Rio Abajo.

(Lil Gillett)

El Camino Real

By Lil Gillett

Holiday spirit prevails

It is doubtful if any holiday of the year could have resulted in greater response than the grand opening at the new Safeway last Sunday.

An estimated more than 5,000 persons including men, women and children appeared to be having a wonderful time at all of the stores at Del Rio Plaza.

The parking lot was packed most of the day and store owners were amazed at the turnout.

Mr. Safeway, John Marshall, drew large crowds around him. One woman rushed up to me and said, "Mr. Marshall kissed me. Has he kissed you yet?"

A gentleman of acquaintance yelled greetings from his car. I strolled over and found he, his wife and their small dog all enjoying ice cream cones from Thrifty. The man said, "The dog always has to have some ice cream too."

A group of young people were holding a bake sale on the sidewalk outside of Safeway and the T.G.&Y. Family Center.

People could be seen carrying packages from all of the opened stores--Safeway, Thrifty, T.G.&Y. and Tops 'N Bottoms.

I made quick visits to each store and noticed numerous shoppers in each one. Safeway was packed with grocery shoppers lined up for some distance awaiting check-out.

Comments heard included: "Isn't this great." "I think Belen can really keep a lot of shoppers home now." "Having stores open on Sunday is really great; the whole family can come."

Comments on the Safeway store were of this variety, "Have you seen the large produce section?" "Isn't the frozen food area terrific." "Oh, did you notice all of the frozen fish?" "This is wonderful for Belen and the entire area."

These comments came from a large variety of shoppers and visitors to the opening. The excitement could be felt in the air and one could easily imagine being in a large city's shopping center during a big sale.

After visiting the opening one felt a wonderful thing had happened to Belen with the openings thus far at Del Rio Plaza. And there are still many more shops which will be open soon.

— — — —
Strange

Conceit is a queer disease. It makes everyone sick except the fellow who has it.

-Grit.

— — — —
Everything

Notice in a loan-office window: "For the man who has everything and hasn't paid for it."

-Enterprise, Lisbon, M

Belen Roadway Hearing Is Next Month

May Recover \$100,000 From Land Owners

SANTA FE, Oct. 17 (AP)—A lot of money rides on a court hearing scheduled next month to determine how much urban right-of-way the State Highway Department holds through Belen.

The Santa Fe New Mexican says the state may recover "more than \$100,000 paid to people who claimed to own" land which the department bought.

The newspaper said the State Highway Commission last February rejected the advice of its attorney and right-of-way engineer and ordered payment for land which it apparently already owned at Belen.

At the February meeting, the commission approved purchase of some land for more than the price set by county and state appraisers, the newspaper said. It also made a loan to Valencia County so the payment could be made, an act counter to a department policy.

Will Wait

Hadley Kelsey, a highway department attorney, said the court litigation is to determine the width of right-of-way owned by the department through Belen. The entire issue depends on this, he said.

The U. S. Bureau of Public Roads said it had rejected a department claim for \$29,101 as the federal share of the disputed right-of-way payment. The BPR will wait for court determination of the issue, a spokesman said.

Land was needed in connection with an urban widening project.

Payment for right-of-way claims was on the basis that the state's right-of-way was only 23 feet wide.

The New Mexican said there is strong proof that the department has owned 80 feet of right-of-way through Belen for a number of years.

Minutes Reveal Plea

It has not been definitely determined how many people were paid right-of-way damages at Belen, nor what the total payments have been.

A check of the minutes of the Highway Commission's February session in question showed the commission heard a plea from attorney Tibo Chavez in behalf of Belen property owner Placido Jaramillo.

Chavez contended Jaramillo's home and filling station had been razed when the department's right-of-way people assured him the state was bonded and he would be reimbursed.

Later, highway attorneys uncovered records which indicated Jaramillo's property may have been on state right-of-way. Rejection of Jaramillo's claim was urged.

The commission decided that an injustice had been done and that Jaramillo should be paid for the loss of his property.

Jaramillo's property was appraised by the state and county at a little more than \$15,000. Court appraisers set the figure at \$30,000. Chavez suggested the commission and Jaramillo split the difference.

Claim Policy Ignored

This the commission agreed to do, and when Valencia County indicated a willingness to pay the \$7508 the commission granted the county a loan so Jaramillo could be paid immediately.

Granting the loan to the county ignored existing department policy.

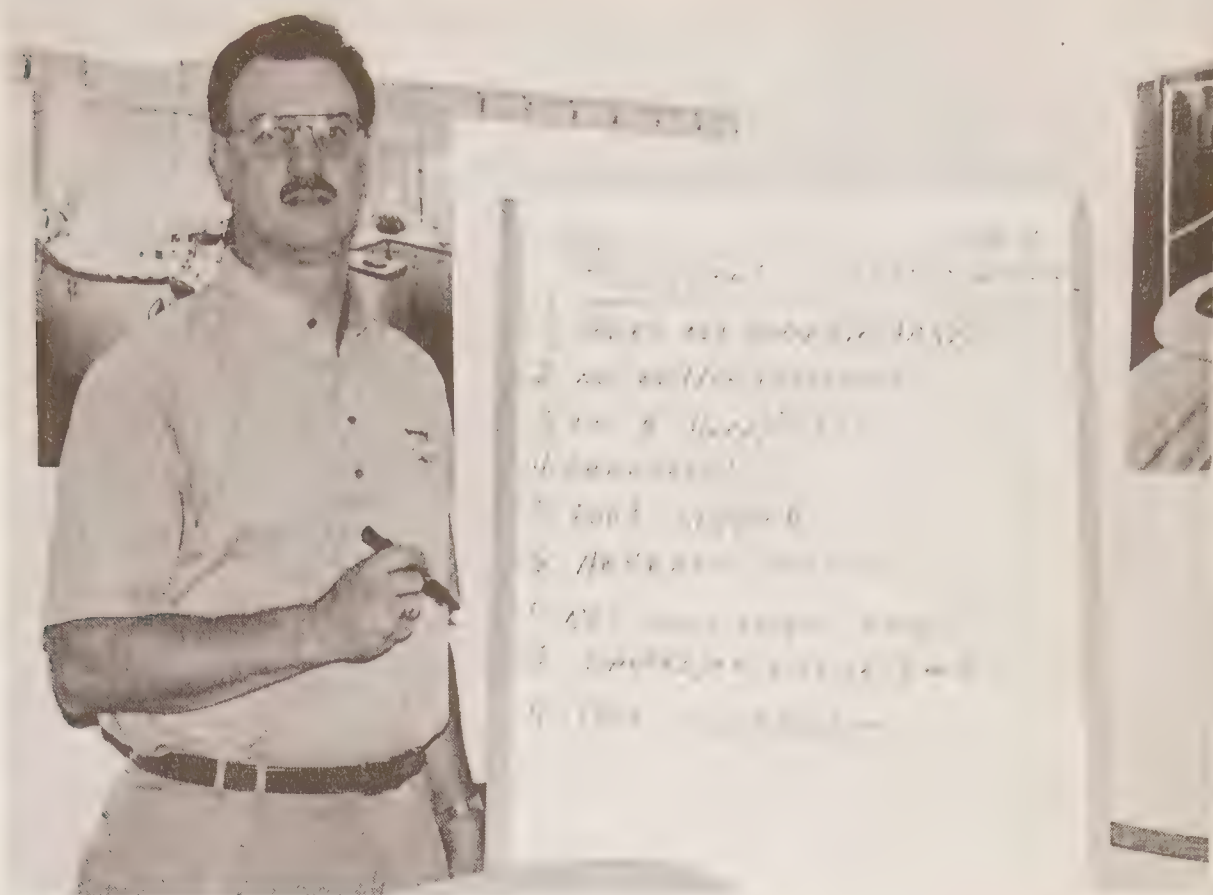
Litigation on the right-of-way issue was revived, the New Mexican said, when Chavez filed a new claim for right-of-way damages for another client.

The department made a counterclaim by which it will seek to establish that its right-of-way ranges from 80 to 140 feet in width, instead of the 23-foot width on which payments had been based.

"I don't know what we've got and I don't think anybody else does, until it has been determined by litigation," Kelsey said.

Wins Firm Honors

Clayton J. Boddy, of Farmington, has completed his second year with Mutual of New York at the top of his group. Mr Boddy, associated with the Albuquerque agency of MONY, also qualified for the Top Club, a company sales-honor group, for the second time.



Pamela Trujillo-News-Bulletin photo

Ken Rearick demonstrates the technique of brainstorming, one of the most important tools he uses to ensure smooth operation of human resources at Avonite.

Brainstorming is this human resource manager's best tool

BY PAMELA TRUJILLO
NEWS-BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

For Ken Rearick, human resources manager at Avonite, problem solving begins with brainstorming.

Rearick relies on the brainstorming technique to solicit employees' ideas about different problems and decisions the company comes across. At Avonite, employees' suggestions are a valuable part of finding solutions, and finding solutions gives employees the opportunity to contribute to their work environment.

"Employees are in a position to improve their job because they are the ones who do the work," Rearick said. "As a company, we provide them with the tools and opportunity to make these changes."

Twice a year, Rearick teaches brainstorming and other techniques to 18 to 24 employees who have worked at the manufacturing firm for less than six months. The two-day seminar, called the Avonite Total Performance class, introduces diagrams and charts, statistical analysis and teamwork. On the second day, the employees use the new techniques to solve problems.

Rearick said employees are asked to volunteer for different Quality Process Improvement teams at Avonite after their training. The QPI teams use the same techniques learned in Rearick's seminar. The teams include teams for new employee orientation, communication, recycling and forklift training.

Rearick said QPI teams usually consist of six to eight employees and last for three to six months. The teams elect a recorder and leader and have a senior member of management as their sponsor.

QPI teams can also be formed when an accident occurs at work. QPI teams brainstorm ideas about what the cause may have been and how to prevent reoccurrence. Team members use a point system to vote on which ideas they think are best.

After brainstorming and voting are complete, the team must present its findings to a steering committee, made up of senior management. The steering committee then makes the final decision on whether to implement the team's recommendations.

Rearick said he enjoys seeing employees come up with good ideas that have an effect at Avonite. Rearick said it is a higher motivational factor than even money when employees feel like they are contributing to the company.

Rearick said being human resources manager allows him to feel he is contributing to the company, as well. He said he chose a career in human resources because he likes to deal with people.

He is a graduate of Penn State University in Pennsylvania and has his professional certification in human resources.

At Avonite, Rearick's duties

include the administrative hiring process, company benefits, company policies, the activities committee, performance evaluations, the safety program, employee relations and employee training. He also ensures compliance with federal and state employment laws and administers random substance abuse screenings.

Rearick said Avonite employs

about 200 people. The plant, located in Rio Communities since 1988, is the only Avonite manufacturing facility in the world. Avonite is the patented name for the solid surface material produced by the company. The material is used in counter tops, shower surrounds and furniture. Avonite is sold through distribution networks in the United States and overseas.



Avonite has operated in Rio Communities since 1988.

On the cutting edge

Huge Italian saws slice rows of tile for New Mexico Travertine

By T.S. LAST
NEWS-BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

New Mexico Travertine is literally on the cutting edge of its industry. And it is so thanks to a robust Italian with big shiny teeth.

The Padrini 580 block saw, used to cut stone at the Travertine plant located near the airport on the mesa west of Belen, is likely the most impressive saw you'll ever see. Approximately 15 feet tall, 20 feet wide and 25 feet in length, the Padrini 580 is used by New Mexico Travertine to cut stone — mostly marble, travertine, sandstone and limestone—for the purpose of making tile.

Ron Trujillo, who formerly served as plant superintendent before being moved into sales, said the company is one of just three marble fabricators in the country. The Padrini is designed to hold up to 32 blades at one time, although New Mexico Travertine doesn't have a need to use that many.

"Here we have two blades," Trujillo said. "The first blade, the larger one, is going to cut the vertical cut. And then you have a small blade that's 14 inches in diameter that's laying down on top of the stone that cuts horizontally. The horizontal blade will cut just below the vertical blade. That way you're not leaving any marks in the stone."

Trujillo said the saw is used to cut billets, a single strip of stone that's been pared down to thirteen-thirty-seconds of an inch thickness, and 12 and one-sixteenth of an inch in height. The finished product comes out as tile which is sold to



The Padrino block saw has diamond-tipped blades that cut vertically and horizontally at the same time. The horizontal blade cuts just below the cut of the larger vertical one so it leaves no mark on the stone.

T.S. Last-News-Bulletin photo

any of 300 retailers. It may land up lining floors or even walls.

Stone cut by New Mexico Travertine can be found all over the world, Trujillo said. The Belen

company recently finished supplying the tile for a church in Japan.

Trujillo said the stone tile is cut to the dimensions requested by the customer.

"We take our billets straight off the saw and run them straight through our tile line and they're already fairly close to the right dimension," he said. "Then the tile

line will give them the right finish and the right dimension, exactly."

Cutting stone requires a special blade with diamond segments attached to both sides along its

outer edge. As one would expect, the blades are rather expensive ranging in price from about \$800

See NM Travertine, page 4G

BELEN

Sax Player Gets Satisfaction With Stones

New Album, Tour in Spring

By ARLEY SANCHEZ
Journal Staff Writer

Bobby Keys plays saxophone for the "World's Greatest Rock and Roll Band," now sometimes known as the World's Oldest Rock and Roll Band.

Keys laughs at the description of the Rolling Stones as geriatric rockers:

"As long as the band still feels like doing it and the people still come to see it, I guess it'll go on," Keys said. "The band works hard at putting on a good show and the people always leave satisfied."

Keys claims Belen as his home town because that's where his mother lives: former state Sen. Lucy Keys Brubaker, a prominent Valencia County Democrat who has also served as county clerk, assessor and treasurer.

Keys is getting ready to record another album and go on tour again next spring with the Rolling Stones, the original British Bad Boys who can still pack stadiums with their raucous brand of classic rock and roll.

Keys, 52, just finished playing a benefit concert in Los Angeles with musicians like Sheryl Crow, John Mellencamp, Don Henley, Melissa Etheridge, Bryan Adams, and Steve Winwood. He's also been recording in Brazil and plans a concert next summer there with some of the Stones supporting cast. Keys has also been invited, along with studio trumpet player Jim Price, to appear sometime early next year on Conan O'Brien's Late Show on CBS.

"Things will be pretty busy after the New Year, but around the holidays things are pretty dead," Keys said, in an interview this week at his mother's Belen home.

Keys recently taped the Los Angeles benefit concert for the City of Hope, a charitable organization that funds research to find cures for AIDS, cancer, and leukemia. The concert will run on VH1, a music station on cable and



COURTESY BOBBY KEYS

SAX AND STONE: Bobby Keys and Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards.

satellite television. He also played in a golf tournament in Las Vegas, Nev., sponsored by VH1.

"I'm really a terrible golfer, but I love to play the game," Keys said, adding that on a good day, he can shoot a score in the low 90s.

Keys said he started playing golf on the last Stones tour a few years ago, with a couple of other musicians in the horns section.

"I found it to be a nice change of pace from the tour," Keys said. "To get away from the noise and the

crowds out on the green grass and chase a silly ball all over the place."

Asked whether Mick Jagger and Keith Richards are golfers, Keys replied, "No. They like to throw things at the other band members.

"As long as the band still feels like doing it and the people still come to see it, I guess it'll go on. The band works hard at putting on a good show and the people always leave satisfied."

BOBBY KEYS,
ROLLING STONES
SAXOPHONIST



JAY FLORES/FOR THE JOURNAL

TIME OUT: Bobby Keys took time during the slow holiday period to visit his mother in Belen.

Keith is a tennis fan. He doesn't play tennis, but he's an avid fan."

Keys was born in Lubbock, Texas on an army base, where his deceased father, Bill Keys, was stationed. Bobby spent his younger years in Belen, going to elementary school here for about four years before he moved to Slaton, Texas, to live until early adulthood with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Keys. Keys began playing the saxophone in junior high.

"I got hurt playing baseball and I couldn't play football, so the only way I could go to the games was to join the band, and the only instrument left by the time I joined was an old baritone sax," Keys said.

Keys met '50s rock pioneer Buddy Holly, who used to perform at Keys' junior high assemblies.

"There was something about his music that rang a bell for me," Keys said. Keys broke into the music business the usual way, playing for high school dances, weddings and nightclubs. Keys became good enough to play for Bobby Vee on the Dick Clark Caravan of Stars tour. He met the

Stones in San Antonio, Texas, during their first U.S. tour in the early 1960s.

"They just happened to be staying at the same hotel we were staying at," Keys said. "Keith (Richards) and I discovered we were both born the same day, the same year, and then they found out I knew Buddy (Holly). Their hit record at the time was written by Buddy Holly, so there was a good foundation for a friendship right from the beginning."

Keys was recording at a Los Angeles studio with Delaney and Bonnie and Friends, and with Leon Russell and J.J. Cale, when he ran into Keith Richards in a hallway. Richards asked Keys to play a saxophone solo on the "Let it Bleed" album. Keys followed that with performances on several gold and platinum albums for the Stones in the 1980s and '90s.

"In the '80s, I thought there was no way the Stones would make it to the '90s, and here we are getting ready for another world tour," Keys said. "I don't know how long it'll last. I guess I'll do it as long as I can wiggle my fingers."

BELEN

Two Traders Shop Aims for Personal Niche

■ *A tiny strip on Becker Street attempts to re-create the ambiance of Old Town, with small stores and a human touch*

BY ARLEY SANCHEZ
Journal Staff Writer

Two Traders Gift Shop is like a gold nugget: hard to find, but worth it.

The shop, owned by Patricia Wagy and her nearly 3-year-old daughter, Molly, is just 300 square feet, and nestled at the end of a tiny commercial strip on Becker Street that includes Becker Street Pub and Fernia's Cafe.

All three businesses are in a building renovated by Claudine Montano, as she attempts to pump some economic vitality into a formerly neglected part of town near the railroad tracks.

Though cramped, Two Traders offers a fascinating collection of gifts and collectibles: railroad T-shirts, handmade glass beads and jewelry, necklaces with lockets, Christmas pins, sterling silver belts, bracelets, and earrings, pewter boxes, porcelain hearts holding potpourri, nurse dolls, gourmet coffees and candies, and telephones shaped like steam locomotives that chug and blow a whistle when they ring.

Also, Kama Sutra products, silver Christmas tree pins made and signed by Navajo artists, golf pins, jewelry made with semiprecious stones and zirconium, handblown Egyptian perfume bottles, and wind chimes.

Wagy points to a framed snapshot of her daughter, who she says is a big help. Molly's name is on the shop's business cards — she's one of the two traders.

Once, Molly rang up \$50,000 on the cash register.

"I don't know what I'd do without her," Patricia said. "I noticed that I had a good day, and nothing to show for it, but her heart was in the right place. She made \$50,000 for her mom and didn't even know."

Wagy said she opened the shop in May, but business was slow



BECKER BUILDING: Two Traders occupies a building shared by a pub and a cafe on Becker Street that's become part of Belen's renovation efforts.

during the summer. She hopes that will change with the coming holiday season. Hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and Sundays by appointment. The phone number is 861-2464.

"I think people don't know we're here yet," she said, adding that the business is a little hard to find. A former nurse, Wagy was selling jewelry at the flea market in Albuquerque when Montano offered to lease the space, which is directly across the street from Sugar Bowl Lanes.

Asked what makes her tiny shop unique, Wage replied, "You won't find a big crowd. You don't have to wait to find something that's really nice and personal, and you can take it gift wrapped."

Montano said she bought the building that houses the three businesses in May 1993 because she wanted to help rejuvenate an old and historic part of town.

"It used to be the main part of Belen at one time," she said, noting that famous artist Judy Chicago and her husband, photographer Donald Woodman, have renovated the historic Belen Hotel next door. She said the city of Belen has also installed new pavement, angle parking and sidewalks outside the businesses.

"I knew Becker Street had a lot of potential," she said. "It's my dream that this area can become

like Old Town in Albuquerque, with little shops where people can walk in the evening. I'm also hoping we can get old-fashioned lights like they had around the turn of the century."

Eufemia Hurbina leases the restaurant, which offers home-made New Mexican food. Her breakfast speciality is biscuits with gravy. Hurbina does most of the cooking, which she learned from her mother, who used to cook for years at what was once a popular restaurant called Lloyd's Cafe in Belen.

"I've been in the restaurant business since I was 9," Hurbina said, adding she opened the cafe in January after operating the Whiteway Cafe south of Belen for several years. Hours are Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Michael and Michelle Irving manage the Becker Street Pub, which Montano said attempts to recreate a "Cheers" atmosphere, after the television pub where everybody knows your name.

"I'm very happy with the way business is developing," Irving said. "I think people are finding out about us every day and that this is a place where you can come out and enjoy yourselves and feel comfortable."



GETTING READY: Patricia Wagy adds Christmas dressing to a display of the gift items offered in her shop.

JAY FLORES/FOR THE JOURNAL

BUSINESS

DECEMBER 24-25, 1997

PAGE 7A

Valencia Flour Mill certified in making organic tortilla and pastry flour in Jarales

BY PAMELA TRUJILLO
NEWS-BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

After years of running a chemical-free facility, Jose Cordova is milling and selling the first certified organic wheat flour in New Mexico at the Valencia Flour Mill in Jarales.

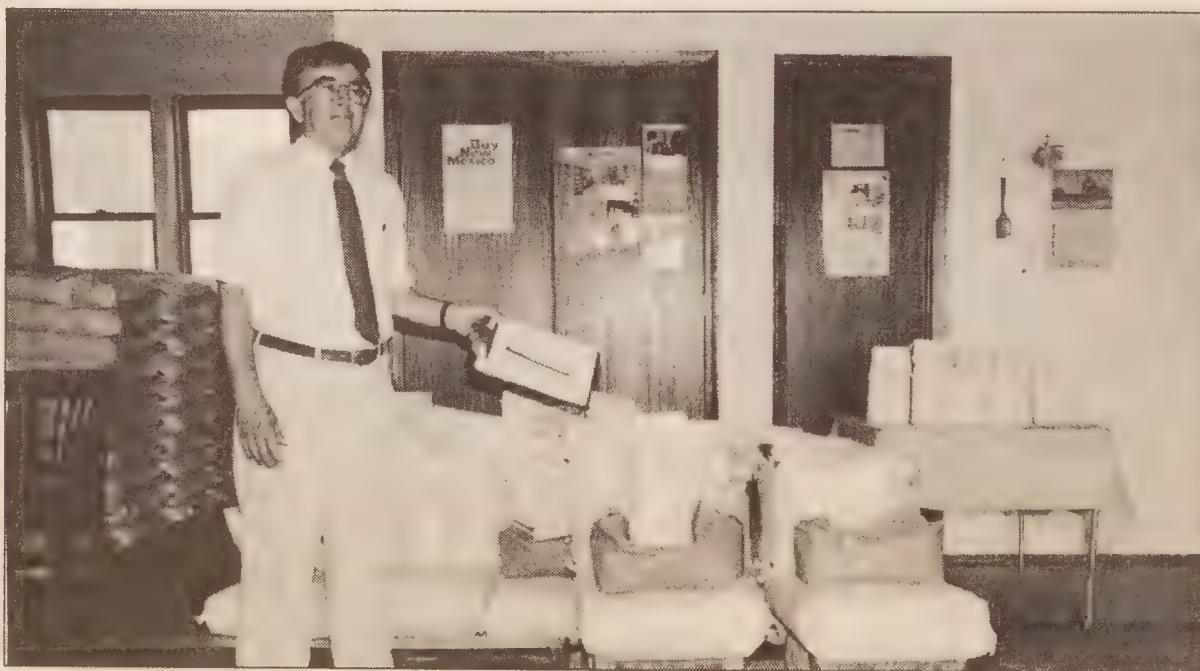
The Valencia Flour Mill has been milling the organic flour since August, having received organic certification on Feb. 12. On Aug. 5, Cordova first manufactured Valencia Organic Tortilla and Pastry Flour for sale to Leon's Foods Inc. of Chimayo, the maker of the Organic Tortillas under the Wild Oats label.

Besides the Wild Oats brand of traditional and fat free tortillas, the mill will sell Organic Bran and the first Organic Sopaipilla Mix to the bulk department at Wild Oats' St. Francis Drive outlet in Santa Fe, said Jose and Kathy Cordova. Other major buyers of Valencia organic flour are Crumpacker's Catering and Cloud Cliff Bakery, both in Santa Fe. Consumers can also buy the organic products on site at the Valencia Flour Mill at 74 Mill Road.

The Cordovas said this is the first year that certified organic wheat grown in New Mexico was available for purchase. The Valencia Flour Mill reports its sources of high quality, certified organic wheat are coming from farmers in the Melrose and Clovis areas as well as La Costia and other northern New Mexico communities like Anton Chico and Rociada.

To pass the rigorous organic inspection and become certified by the Organic Commodity Commission, the mill had to be free of chemical residues for three consecutive years.

As the only certified organic flour mill in the state, the Valencia Flour Mill is a key player in the New Mexico Wheat Project, which began production in 1995. The pro-



Pamela Trujillo/News-Bulletin photo

Jose Cordova displays farinographs of about 12 samples of flour harvested in New Mexico. The graphs tell which are the best varieties to continue planting, evaluates the best milled flour and shows which is the best for baking bread.

ject is an initiative from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Services and the Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Affairs Program to spur rural economic development by re-introducing organic wheat as a rotation crop.

"We want to make a sustainable program where farmers utilize their land and water rights and increase annual income," said Del Jimenez of the Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Affairs Program.

"The project will probably double the income of flour mills and it increases rural economic development," Kathy Cordova said.

For consumers, the mill's organic certification means the food that they are buying is guaranteed to be free of chemicals such as fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and insecticides as well as bleaches, preservatives and additives. Like the flour mill, the farmers' land which produces organic crops must also be chemical-free for at least three con-

secutive years to be certified.

"Somehow, biology works better with organic fertilization," said Jose Cordova. "But it takes a while to cleanse the land of the chemical buildup."

Other benefits of organic foods are their purer taste and higher nutrient values, the Cordovas said.

"You pay a little more for organic products, but it's a better quality of food," said Kathy Cordova. "There's no safer flour or food you can buy than the flour made here."

New Mexico is one of 13 states which has a state-sponsored regulation program for organic food certification, according to a press release from the Valencia Flour Mill. The New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission is the state agency authorized to certify organic farmers and food processing factories. The board is appointed by the state governor to set policies and regulate the state-wide organic certification program.

The Valencia Flour Mill was built in 1914 to grind wheat grown in the Rio Grande Valley, but fell

into disuse and disrepair in the early 1980s. The small flour mill is prospering again since Jose Cordova resigned from his senior process engineering job at the 3M Corporation in Minnesota and moved back to his native state to restore the mill in 1989. He reopened the mill for business in the mid-1990s.

Educated at Kansas State University as a milling engineer, Jose Cordova tested more than one dozen wheat varieties to find a reliable source of softness and low gluten from Clovis wheat. He then retooled his 1920s vintage milling equipment to rediscover the traditional-type brand he labeled "Valencia Tortilla Flour." With its softer, easy-to-roll flour dough, the Cordovas said, Valencia Tortilla Flour gives wholesale and retail customers a unique product well-suited to make the best New Mexican cuisine from tortillas and sopaillas to pies and cookies.



Courtesy of the Valencia County Historical Society

THE FEIPE CASTILLO home, circa 1910 in Belen, was built of adobe with the portal, or porch, along the front. It was built in a provincial version of the Greek Revival style. The property and home, on Don Felipe Road in Belen, is now owned by Michael and June Romero.

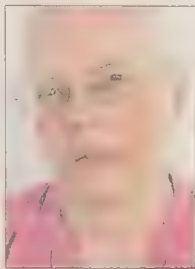
BELEN IN 1910

Valencia County Historical Society looks back at the Hub City, revealing its people, what they did for a living and who they were

(La Historia del Rio Abajo is a regular column about Valencia County history, written by members of the Valencia County Historical Society. Opinions expressed in this and all columns of La Historia del Rio Abajo are the author's alone and not necessarily those of the Valencia County Historical Society or any other group or individual.)

Sandy Battin, retired editor of the Valencia County News-Bulletin, is treasurer of the Valencia County Historical Society.)

la historia del rio abajo



Sandy Battin

Santa Fe Railway, obviously a boon to the local economy and already the Hub City's largest employer. Belen's population was 1,733, while Los Lunas' was counted as 719.

Valencia County's total population — in 20 precincts — was 13,320. That was slightly down from 1900, when 13,895 people were counted, and even from 1890, when there were 13,876.

Back then, Valencia County stretched west to the Arizona border, taking in Grants, Acoma, Laguna and Cebolleta, as Seboyeta was then spelled. They helped make up the official portrait of life in New Mexico in the late territorial period, just prior to statehood.

At the time, unlike Valencia County, New Mexico was growing rapidly. The 1910 census showed a territorial population of 327,301. That was a 67.6 percent increase from 1900's population of 195,310.

Albuquerque residents came to a total of 10,020 in 1910, while Santa Feans numbered 5,072. Roswell was larger than the capital city, at 6,172. The other substantial city in the state was Raton, where 4,539 souls were counted.

This summer, La Historia del Rio Abajo will focus, through the 1910 census, on different areas of the county at that time just before statehood, this first one spotlighting Belen.

Who was who Belen?

The 1910 census of Belen was taken from May 8 to 25 by Placido Jaramillo and Charles F. Tondre, the former filling out 28 of the 36 pages.

There are no addresses on the pages, so it is hard to determine where one neighborhood stops and another begins.

The first family listed on the census is headed by Francisco Chavez, 40, a servant for a private family.

We learn that he rented his home and he spoke Spanish, but not English. His wife, Maria, and he had been married

for 21 years.

Of the 15 children born to the couple, six were still living in 1910. All six were still at home — Cristobal, 20, a laborer who performed odd jobs; Isabel M., 17; Emilia, 8; Eduardo, 7; Pormetiva, 3; and Maria L., 1 year and 3 months old.

The census shows a fairly cosmopolitan community, with at least one individual born in 12 different continents or countries. The largest number of foreign-born individuals came from Mexico, with 52 people stating they were born there.

German births also account for a large number of residents, 24 in all, many of them merchants such as the legendary John Becker, the 62-year-old owner of Becker-Dalies, the First National Bank of Belen and the mill that operated on the site now occupied by city hall.

Other German-born residents were also counted, such as Oscar Goebel, a 60-year-old general merchant, who had arrived in the United States in 1877.

Six people in Belen had been born in France, including the Rev. John A. Picard, the 49-year-old pastor of Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church, and his assistant, the Rev. Albert Costance, 28.

The prominence of these citizens can be seen in the names of streets in the Hub City: Becker, Goebel and Picard, among others.

Three Belenites had been born in China: Den-Lui, a restaurant keeper; Murgén Woo, a cook; and Doo-Lui, a dishwasher.

One can only imagine what a small world locals believed they were living in, when they could order not only a steak or a burrito at a local restaurant, but also, perhaps, chop suey for a change.

Austria, Ireland and, simply, South America contributed one Belen resident a piece, while two residents each were originally from England, Scotland and

Sweden.

Five local residents, all men and laborers for the railroad, were born in Japan — Tora Tatum, K. Takiaki, K. Suki, J. Bann and T. Hata. Tatum, at 31, was the oldest — he and Takiaki arrived in America in 1898, the others following in the early years of the century.

But the largest number of Belenites by far, a total of 1,192, were born right here in New Mexico. Most of them were descended from the original Spanish settlers who had been living and working in El Rio Abajo for centuries.

Among the New Mexico-born families was that headed by Juan Rey Baca, the 48-year-old postmaster of the community. Also a general merchant, he was listed as an employer, someone who could read and write and who owned his home.

His wife, Guadalupe, 38, had experienced a sorrow common to women of her time — childhood disease, problems in childbirth and accidents often left parents grieving for their offspring.

Of the Bacas' nine children, only three were alive in 1910. But those three thrived — Trinidad, 21, was a sales lady in a retail store; Timoteo B., 26, was a salesman for a retailer; and Silvestre B., 15, was an office boy at the railroad roundhouse and was still in school.

The census-taker himself, Placido Jaramillo, at 29, was the local jailer — and a hard worker. Obviously bilingual, he could read and write and he also worked his family farm, which he owned.

His wife, Altagracia, was 28 and an educated woman, who could read and write and who was staying home to care for the couple's son, Albert, a 1 1/2 year old.

The Jaramillos were fairly typical in

■ See **Census**, Page 4B

people & places



Julia M. Dendinger

Impressed by shiny, colorful things

So, I have awesome nails today. Yes, I'm excited about my nail polish. Sue me.

Mostly I'm excited because it was one of those "speciality" polishes that does something cool and professional looking to your nails without the professional cost. And the stuff actually worked.

For a bit more than your average nail polish, you can get Sally Hansen Magnetic Nail Color. I kid you not — magnetic.

According to Sally Hansen, the ripple, 3-D effect is accomplished by metallic particles. I say they're full of it. Obviously it's magic pixie dust. Pssst — metallic particles. What is this? Science or something?

I know as an almost grown-up, I shouldn't be so easily distracted and impressed by shiny, colorful things. Yet, I am.

I think part of my happiness stems from the fact that the stuff actually worked. And worked to the extent that it actually looks like the air-brushed within an inch of its life picture of the model's hands at the store — except that my hands have creases and freckles — and don't look dead. But that's not really the point.

I have to believe that, like myself, most women have spent way too many hours and dollars seeking the perfect, at-home, do-it-yourself beauty product that actually worked as advertised.

But I think it's mostly about being able to say, "I did this myself."

Whole cable TV networks have been built around the DIY concept. Somehow doing it yourself is more noble, more satisfying than hiring it done.

When it works, it's a thing of beauty. But when it doesn't, oh, when it doesn't, there isn't a walk of shame long enough to get rid of the stink of that failure.

Let's look at some of the DIY beauty projects I have tried in the past.

Being "gifted" with straight hair, I was forever seeking a way to introduce some body, some curl, some bounce to my locks. It started out with those wonderful pink foam curlers. You remember those?

Your mother or older sister wound your wet hair around them at night, then you slept on them, to awake to head full of bouncing ringlets.

First of all, there was no sleep. Unless you put were facedown on the pillow, there was no way those things didn't jab and dig.

And the curls. For me, there was no bouncing, no ringlets. There were fuzzy little wads of hair scattered across my scalp. You couldn't brush them because that just made the little wretches fuzzier and you ended up looking like a dandelion gone to seed.

So you carefully worked them out using fingers and a comb, applying judicious amounts of water to smooth out the dents and bumps created by the clips. In the end, you threw a couple of barrettes in it, went to meet the bus and let the torment begin.

When I got older and "wiser," I decided to seek a more permanent solution — the at-home perm. Again, your mother or older sister was wrangled into the rolling, and for this particular adventure, exposure to chemicals that are now most likely outlawed.

And the end result was the same — fuzzy wads of hair, some melted from the aforementioned chemicals. Brush abandoned and wielding a comb, the dandelion look was once again achieved.

At some point I realized I wasn't going to get anywhere changing the texture of my hair. I moved on to altering it's color. And since we lived 80 miles from the nearest mall, and 40 from the closest drug store, very often my beauty products came from browsing the cosmetics aisle of the grocery store.

You know what I found there? Yeah you do.

■ See **People**, Page 8B

COMIDAS

The thrill of the grill fires up smoky flavors

COURTESY OF FAMILY FEATURES

Grilling season is here, and that means it's time to get fired up for the smoky flavor of your favorite foods cooked in the great outdoors over charcoal.

These grilling recipes were created by chefs from all over the country and participated in the Choice Steak Challenge to find out who has the best grilling chops.

Our recipes feature Walmart's Choice Premium Beef, as well as delicious sides to try with each dish. Only five steaks is good enough, and that label of distinction, and others who aren't satisfied with purchase only need to bring back receipt for a full refund.

Key to Great Grilling

Get the Right Fire: Use different fuel arrangements depending on



Grilled T-bone with Everglades Rub

what's going on the grill.

Thinner pieces of meat respond best to high temperature, direct-heat grilling, which requires spreading the coals out evenly across the grate.

Thicker pieces of meat cook beautifully all the way through, without burning on the outside, with a two-zone fire.

Stack briquets to one side of the grate for high and low temperature zones. Begin cooking directly over the coals until the outside of the meat has reached the desired doneness; then move the meat to the other side of the grate (the low temperature zone) to finish cooking.

Find more recipes, tips and information at www.Grilling.com.

■ See **Comidas**, Page 8B



Priscilla and Edward Otero
At their wedding



Edward and Priscilla Otero
In a recent photo

Oteros celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

Edward and Priscilla Otero will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 23. The couple were married in 1962 at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church.

Edward is a 1952 graduate of Los Lunas High School. He works at the

Veteran's Hospital in Albuquerque.

Priscilla is a 1957 graduate of Belen High School. She works at Sandia Base and Los Lunas.

They are members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Peralta. Their children are Charlotte Ann and

husband, Rick, Erica, Edward, Stephen and wife, Michelle, and Elizabeth and husband, Bill.

Their grandchildren are Isaiah, Xavier and Sierra Otero and Elijah Espinosa.

The couple celebrated their anniversary with family on a Caribbean Cruise.

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF GRADUATES



Submitted photos

THE NEW MEXICO School for the Deaf announced that Impa Coleman, left, and Carlos Martinez, right, both of Los Lunas graduated as part of the Class of 2012 on June 1.

ASD GRADUATE



Submitted photo

AMELIA SANDOVAL graduated from Arizona School for the Deaf (high school) in Tucson, Ariz. She grew up in Belen, and is staying home with her parents, Rosemary and Ronie Sandoval, this summer. She will be attending Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, in Big Springs, Texas, with her father, Ronnie, who teaches at SWCID.

RELIGION NOTES

Catholic Daughters to meet

Catholic Daughters of America will hold its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, June 16, with the installation of officers at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Los Chavez.

The First Baptist Church of Los Lunas to hold yard sale Saturday

A yard sale will be held beginning at 8 a.m., Saturday, June 16, at the First Baptist Church of Los Lunas.

Special Father's Day service at First Baptist Church of Bosque Farms

The First Baptist Church of Bosque Farms, 1350 Bosque Farms Blvd., will feature a Father's Day recognition at its 10:30 a.m. service, Sunday, June 17. Dr. Carl Russell, a professional church consultant, will speak on the subject, "A Father's Instruction," from Proverbs 4. Nursery is provided. For information, call the church at 869-2759.

Fiesta Mass at Los Chavez mission

The Fiesta Mass for the birth of John the Baptist will be celebrated at the mission church in Los Chavez at 2 p.m., Sunday, June 24.

'Courageous' to be shown at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church

Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church will be showing the movie, "Courageous," from 6 to 8 p.m., Sunday, June 24, in the Faith Formation Center.

Vacation Bible School to be held at Grace Fellowship in Los Lunas

Children age 3 to those entering sixth grade this fall are invited to an exciting week on Promise Island during Grace Fellowship's 2012 Vacation Bible School June 25-29. Admission is free, but registration is required at the foyer table, or online at www.gracenm.org.

Vacation Bible School at Peralta Memorial United Methodist Church

Vacation Bible School will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, June 25-29, at Peralta Memorial United Methodist Church. You can register your child on Sundays, or by calling the church office at 865-9334. The school is for children ages 4 to those in the fifth grade.

Calvary Chapel's women's retreat

Calvary Chapel's New Harvest's sixth annual woman's retreat, "Come as you are Little Children," will be held June 29-30. For information, call 866-9832, or stop by and register at 601 Main St. in Los Lunas.

Calvary Chapel's New Harvest's morning women's Bible study

Calvary Chapel's New Harvest's morning women's Bible study is starting a new study titled "Sermon on the Mount." The book costs \$5, but its not necessary for the study. The study meets at 9:30 a.m. For information, call 866-9832.

Divine Mercy Prayer Group at OLB

Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church's Divine

Mercy Prayer Group meets at 9:45 a.m. every Wednesday in the Faith Formation Center

Bible classes at BF Church of Christ

The Biblical Institute of the Southwest, a satellite school of Sunset International Bible Institute, is beginning a 24-lesson study of Acts of the Apostles. Classes meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, hosted by the Church of Christ, 1635 Bosque Farms Blvd. Audit students are welcome to come and participate in discussion.

Baptismal classes at OLB

Beginning in July, baptismal classes will be on the second Tuesday of each month at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church.

Christian Family Church of God holds prayer and Bible Study

Christian Family Church of God, 318 South Sixth St., in Belen, holds prayer at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, and Bible Study at 6 p.m.

Evening prayer group at Calvary Chapel's New Harvest in Los Lunas

An evening prayer group at Calvary Chapel's New Harvest in Los Lunas will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursdays at the church, 601 Main St. in Los Lunas. For information, call 866-9832.

Our Lady of Belen adult Bible study

Our Lady of Belen holds an adult Bible study group at 1 p.m. every Wednesday in the Faith Formation Center.

Youth group meets at Christian Family Church of God in Belen

The youth group at Christian Family Church of God, 318 South Sixth St., in Belen, meets at 7 p.m. every other Tuesday.

Abundant Grace Shawl Ministry

The Abundant Grace Shawl Ministry, meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the First Assembly of God Church, 19398 N.M. 314 in Belen. Free knitting and crochet instruction is available during this time and supplies will be provided free of charge. Experienced knitters and crocheters are welcome. Feel free to join in with your own project or to learn a new skill. Donations of yarn, crochet/knitting needles may be made in person or be contacting Danene at 861-8213 for pickup. Requests for a prayer shawl/prayer may be made in person by contacting Danene.

Covenant Life Community Church holds ladies coffee corner

Covenant Life Community Church ladies coffee corner meet from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday. It's a time of food, fellowship and ministry. For information, call Jan at 908-6109.

Women's life group meets at Grace Fellowship Church

Ladies, you are invited to join the Women's life group at 7 p.m. on Wednesday nights in Room A2 at Grace Fellowship Church in Los Lunas. They are studying from the book "Esther."

Covenant Life Community Church hosts freedom nights on Fridays

Covenant Life Community Church freedom night meets at 7 p.m. every Friday. Ministering freedom from addictions through the power of Christ. For information, call Pastor Alonzo at 818-3586.

'Awakening Faith' at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church

"Awakening Faith," a group of adult parishioners at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church, meets at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday in the Faith Formation Center, to study and discuss issues related to the faith. Participation is open to any interested parishioners.

Freedom Youth Church at Grace Fellowship Church in Los Lunas

Freedom Youth Church is held at 6:45 p.m. every Wednesday in the auditorium at Grace Fellowship Church in Los Lunas. Experience the presence of God through intense prayer, expressive worship, obedience to the word and fellowship with each other.

Grace Fellowship website

Check out Grace Fellowship's website, which includes new information, at www.gracenm.org. You can download sermons, discover upcoming events and submit prayer requests.

Bereavement ministry at OLB

The Bereavement Ministry Support Group has started at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. The group meets weekly on Thursday evenings and is intended to assist anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. For information, call 864-8043.

Sunrise prayer at Calvary Chapel's New Harvest in Los Lunas

A sunrise prayer will be held at 6:30 a.m. every Monday at Calvary Chapel's New Harvest, 601 Main St. SE, in Los Lunas. For information, call 866-9832.

Weekly men's coffee at First Baptist Church in Los Lunas

There is a men's coffee at the First Baptist Church in Los Lunas at 7 p.m. every Tuesday. Men can get together, enjoy a word from the Lord, prayer and male fellowship.

Women's morning Bible study at First Baptist Church in Los Lunas

A women's morning Bible study is held at 10 a.m. every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall at the First Baptist Church in Los Lunas.

Women's evening Bible study at First Baptist Church in Los Lunas

A women's evening Bible study is held at 7 p.m. every Thursday in the Parsonage at the First Baptist Church in Los Lunas.

OLB youth group meets

Our Lady of Belen youth group meets at 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings in the Faith Formation Center. Youth in grades 9 through 12 are invited to attend.

Senior adult art group at OLB

The senior adult art group meets at 10 a.m. Tuesdays in the Faith Formation Center at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. Members of the group explore their creative artistic abilities with various forms of art media, and are able to socialize with others at the same time. For information, call the parish office at 864-8043.

Latter-day Saints hosts young adults every Thursday evening in Los Lunas

A Center for Young Adults is held every Thursday beginning at 6 p.m. with a dinner, an institute class at 7 p.m. and activities at 8 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 160 James St., in Los Lunas. Young adults from 18-30, married or single, are invited to attend any or all of the three activities.

Valley Church of Christ Bible study

Valley Church of Christ invites all to its ladies Bible study, which is held the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The church is located in Mondel Plaza, 601 Main St., Suite 42-B, in Los Lunas. For information, call 554-4723.

Addictions ministry at New Harvest

"High and Lifted Up" addictions ministry is aimed at anyone struggling with any type of bondage whether it be drug, alcohol, smoking, gambling, food, etc. This program will take you Biblically through God's plan for breaking the vice within your life. They meet every Thursday night at 7 p.m. at Calvary Chapel's New Harvest. Child care is provided. For more information, call 866-9832.

Seniors potluck and games at First Baptist Church in Los Lunas

Senior potluck and games are held at 11 a.m. every Friday at First Baptist Church of Los Lunas. Good food, fellowship and lots of laughter.

Food pantry at First Baptist Church

The food pantry is open at 1 p.m. every Thursday, and at 5:30 p.m., every first Thursday at First Baptist Church of Los Lunas, 914 Los Lentes SE. The first 10 families to come will get food once every two months. Bring two forms of identification showing 87031 address verification.

English classes offered at Open Door Church of God

Se ofrece Clases de Ingles todo los Miresol a las 5 de la tarde. Dirreccion 3419 N.M. Mas informacion llame 440-9770.

(Churches and other groups are invited to send their bulletins or newsletters to the News-Bulletin as a way of regularly making announcements in Religion Notes. Deadline for submissions appearing in Saturday's Church Notes is 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Send to Editor, Valencia County News-Bulletin, P.O. Box 25, Belen 87002 or email cgarcia@news-bulletin.com. Items begin running two weeks before the actual event.)

Cowhands from the Rio Grande

Some ranches still do work the old-fashioned way — and love it

By T.S. LAST
NEWS-BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

The cowboy lifestyle has been romanticized in books and films and rightfully so.

There is something to be said for living a life out in the wide open spaces breathing the fresh clean air away from the herds of cars leading in and out of the concrete city.

It's where a hot meal is sufficient reward for a hard day's work, and nothing feels better than kicking off your boots, resting your head on a saddle bag, and gazing up to the stars in the mute dark night.

But in order to get that feeling, to feel like he's earned that moment, the cowboy has to get his work done. Each year at the Buddy Major Ranch, perched high on the mesa west of Belen, Buddy and his crew go through the process of branding the young calves born into the herd that spring. Actually there's more to it than the branding.

"This guy ropes 'em and drags 'em there like that," Buddy explains as a young calf is brought into position to take a hot iron. "Then them guys take 'em down. One guy heels him and then one guy gets 'em on the front leg, and the other by the back end. Then he'll vaccinate him and then they put that tag in their ear. Then we're going to spray 'em to help keep the flies off them."

Most of the bull calves are castrated, but the ones who look like they'll make good breeding bulls are left alone.

Buddy's 'boys started their day about 6:30 a.m. They brought the herd in yesterday and today's the day they'll get Buddy's three-bar brand burned on to their hides.

It'll take all day, Buddy said, to do about 300 calves. Tomorrow they'll head out to another part of the 50,000 acres he leases to do about 200 more.

So how many head of cattle does he have?

"When you ask somebody how many cattle they got, that's the same as asking how much money they have in the bank," Buddy said with a chuckle.

Well, answer me this, then. Does it hurt?

"It hurts a little bit," Buddy said. "But you know, when they're young it don't hurt too much. I think it's too bad they even have to brand cattle. But these calves get over it in a couple days. The vaccine probably hurts more than anything. That probably bothers them more than anything else."

There are other methods. Some ranchers freeze the brand onto their cattle, but Buddy said that takes longer and you need electricity for that. Buddy likes to do it the old-fashioned way — the real cowboy way, you might say — and he's trying to teach these 'boys the way he learned it.

Cowboy works for Buddy. That's his name, Cowboy. Buddy said he doesn't know his real name and if he has one, he won't tell you,

either. Cowboy works security for Buddy, patrolling the prairie for trespassers that come out to the mesa to party or to rustle cattle.

"You would think in this day and age it wouldn't (happen), but rustling is as much alive today as it was way back. And when you say cattle rustling today, you mean like rustling calves because they don't have any brands on them yet," he said.

That's the reason for branding the cattle.

"Usually we do it earlier but we had late bloomers. In other words, late calving this year, so we held it off. But usually we do it earlier and that helps eliminate cattle rustling," he said.

Cowboy said he likes to see branding done with a hot iron as opposed to a cold one, because it keeps the old method alive.

"To me, it's a dying way. It's something that ain't being done no more or at least very little. But Buddy, he does it all on horseback where so many today, they use helicopters and dune buggies. Buddy still does it the old way. It's part of the old days still kept up in the modern."

Cowboy was participating in the branding on this day. He was on crutches from an accident the day before.

"I dove off a four-wheeler and bulldogged a calf and broke my leg," Cowboy said. "It was the four-wheeler that ran over my leg. I should have done it the old way. A horse has enough sense to stop."

You've got to be tough to be a cowboy. Buddy said you have to be a certain type of breed.

"Yes, you have to be pretty hardy," Buddy said. "But I've got some good boys here — some pretty good hands."

One of those hands is 18-year-old Brandon Major, Buddy's nephew. Brandon grew up a cowboy and said ranching is what he intends to do the rest of his life. Buddy is training him to do just that.

"He's kinda taken over my deal," Buddy said. "He's pretty young to do that, but I'm trying to teach him."

Brandon admits the work is hard but that's what he likes about it and he enjoys the lifestyle. "The main thing that I like about it is just the hard work, but then you get through and you got something accomplished. It's the end result of it — getting through with the work that I like. It's hard work but its fun," he said.

Another young cowboy, Dayle Alldredge, said he's been working for Buddy as a cowboy for about a year now. He said he likes the work because it's physical and he likes



T. S. Last/News-Bulletin photos

These cowboys take a lunch break, and a break from the sun, before they get at it again.



A cowboy prepares to rope one that still needs to be branded.



Throwin' a hot iron on a calf.

"One guy heels him and then one guy gets 'em on the front leg, and the other by the back end. Then he'll vaccinate him and then they put that tag in their ear. Then we're going to spray 'em to help keep the flies off them."

Rancher Buddy Major

riding. The annual branding is what he likes best but he enjoys the whole cowboy lifestyle.

"There's busy, busy times but there's times when it's real social," he said. "Like this, we'll be busy here for another couple of weeks until we're done and then it goes back to fixing water lines and fences. Then you look forward to this again next year."

Alldredge may have been attracted to life as a cowboy after seeing it romanticized in the movies. Working for Buddy Major to him is like being in a John Wayne film.

"I'm kinda new at it so all the guys have been real good helping us out and teaching us," he said. "It's kinda like John Wayne in 'Cowboys.' He's got a whole bunch of young guys that are just learning. But we're all workin' together good as a team."

And that's the cowboy way.

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Silversmith fulfills lifetime dream by earning college degree

BY SANDY BATTIN
NEWS-BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

If Eileen Baca-Brubaker could have seen the outcome of her life, what she would grow up to achieve, it might have comforted her, given her solace as a child.

Today, the Belen silversmith looks back on a life that has been hard, but a story that gives others hope for the triumph of the soul over almost impossible odds.

Surrounded by the beauty she creates from old spoons, lifeless bars of silver and someone else's cast-off beads, Eileen seems happy. In her small adobe house with her "mini-studio" in a screened porch hidden behind wooden trellises, she is living to create her art — painting, working metal, shining semi-precious stones.

The child she was would have been stunned to look through the mirror of the decades to see what the woman would become because the path of the years was long and twisting.

"I had six sisters and one brother and I was the second oldest," Eileen said recently. "My mother died when I was 7 and my oldest sister married when she was 15. I dropped out of school when I was in the sixth grade to take care of the rest of the family."

There was no day care in those days, no respite workers, no grief counseling — only family. And Eileen's father, Belen Police Officer Ruben B. Baca, was determined to keep his family together.

"He wouldn't let us go. We had aunts and uncles who said they would take this one or that one of us but he said no, his children weren't puppies to be given away," Eileen recalled.

And so he held on, making a tiny \$200 a month, surviving the even-then frightening hazards of policing, taking on odd jobs after hours to keep food in his children's

mouths and shoes on their feet.

"All of my brothers and sisters had jobs to pitch in," Eileen recalled. "My dad ran a second hand store on Main Street, selling saints and herbs. My dad would do yard work and people would give him big boxes of things they were going to throw away. There'd be clothes but I'd pick out the old, worn-out trinkets people were throwing away."

"There'd be necklaces and I'd restring them. After that, I'd sell them. I'd wear them and people would buy them."

Still, as she cleaned counters in a local restaurant at 7 years old or stocked shelves at a small grocery, she dreamed. "I always, in my heart, wanted to be an artist," Eileen said. "Going to college then wasn't even considered a dream, a reality, for Hispanics in poverty. We didn't have the money."

Eileen grew up, still dreaming about getting an education. After she married and divorced, she decided to get a GED so she could get a job. She took the test at the University of Albuquerque — and suddenly the girl with the sixth grade education was a high school graduate.

With the help of a federal program, she went on to hairdressing school. Later, she was asked to become a teacher at the school but, while traveling to Albuquerque for training, she was in a major car crash.

Back at work at salons in Belen for a while, she was forced to quit her job after she slipped and fell while shopping one day, injuring her back.

Unable to work and not knowing what would come next for her, Eileen picked up a copy of the News-Bulletin and read that placement tests were being held at the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus.

She decided to take them, passed



Sandy Battin-News-Bulletin Photos

Eileen Baca-Brubaker sits in her mini-studio, wearing one of the crosses she made.

and, with the help of counselors, found herself with grants and scholarships enough to start to make her dream come true.

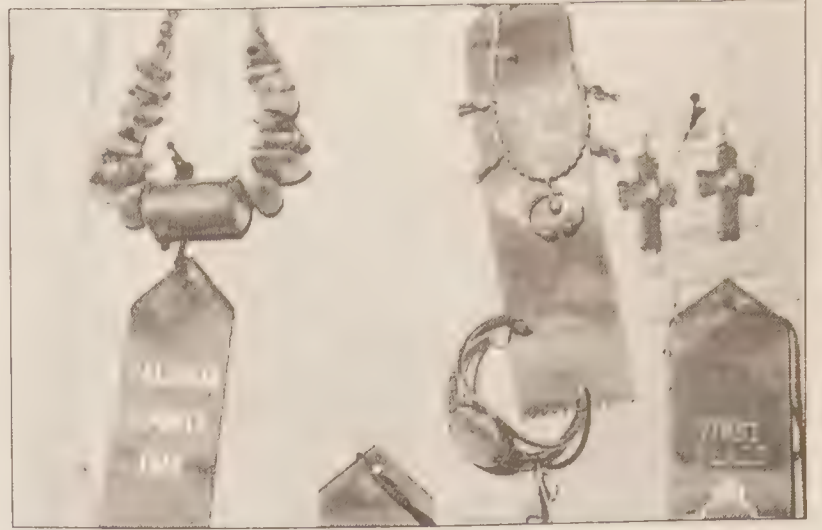
Eileen said it was frightening going back to school for the first time in years. But she gathered her courage and she took advantage of everything the campus offered — tutors, counselors, understanding professors, even notetakers who could help her since she has arthritis in her hands.

She said two professors — David Coker in art and Jon Conescu in philosophy — quickly

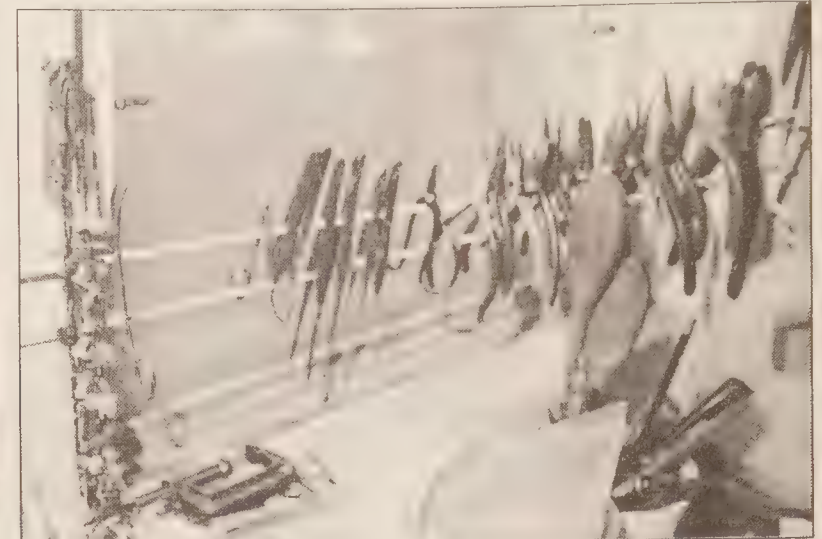
became her mentors and encouraged her to continue on, that she could make it. "They made you believe in yourself," she said.

It was never easy. "I started penniless, no car, no lunch," she said. She had to try to find rides with other students. More than once, she had no way home and had to walk from the campus in Tome to her house behind Kentucky Fried Chicken in Belen.

Eileen achieved a perfect A average, graduated with honors with an associate degree in art and was elected both a student senator



Pieces of jewelry created by Eileen Baca-Brubaker are displayed with ribbons she won at the county fair.



Some of tools Eileen Baca-Brubaker uses in silversmithing lined up along a window.

and secretary of the student body.

"The younger kids looked up to us and asked us things. If we were on committees, they expected us to be leaders," she said.

With her success at the Valencia Campus, Eileen was encouraged to go on to UNM in Albuquerque, taking the big step.

"I would pass by the university and just wonder what it was like for the people going there. When I started, I'd be driving to school and my heart would fill with pride. I'd be walking across campus and I'd

be saying to myself 'I'm here! I'm here!'" she said.

"I put everything into it. But I would cry. Tears would come down and I'd say 'I can't do it. I'm too tired!' But I stuck it out."

She earned a double bachelor's degree in art history and fine arts with a minor in Spanish in 1996. Eventually, she hopes to go back to school to earn a master's degree in special education so she can teach.

While other students focused on

See *Jewelry*, Page 7D

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Join the Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce in These Community Activities

November 20-21
Festival of Trees

November 29

Tenth Annual Christmas Festival & Electric Light Parade:
Belen Chamber of Commerce
Crafts, food, entertainment, Snow Queen Contest
and light display in Anna Becker Park. (505) 864-8091.

United States Karate Alliance - New Mexico Championship Tournament
Belen Goju Ryu Sponsor (505) 864-9568.

February - March
Baca Rodeo

The Southwest's largest rough stock rodeo of this type, held
at the Valencia County Sheriff Posse Rodeo Arena. (505) 287-9534.

May

HUB City Open Karate Championship
World class show by Belen Goju Ryu. (505) 864-9568.

May 2

El Cinco De Mayo Celebration: Belen Parks and Recreation
Food, games, booths and entertainment at Anna Becker Park. (505) 864-2830.

June-October
Rodeo Events

Valencia County Sheriff Posse Rodeo Grounds. (505) 864-6304.

June 6

16th Annual Rio Valley Festival: Belen Chamber of Commerce
Art show, craft booths, misc. booths, food and entertainment,
Anna Becker Park. (505) 864-8091.

July 3

Fireworks Show & Entertainment: Belen Parks and Recreation
Belen High School football field. (505) 864-2830.

July 18

4U2C Car Show
Anna Becker Park. (505) 864-8221.

August 1

9th Annual Chambers Benefit Golf Tournament
Los Lunas & Belen Chambers sponsor this event.
(505) 864-8091 or (505) 895-1581.

August 14

16th Belen Fiesta: Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church
Parade, carnival, food booths, dancing, bingo & raffle. (505) 864-8043.

August 20-24

Valencia County Fair & Parade
Valencia County Fair Grounds. Booth rental, (505) 865-4584.
Parade information - Belen Chamber (505) 864-8091.

October 10

2nd Annual Octoberfest
(505) 864-8091.

NOTICIAS

arts

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

A PRESENTATION BY ROBERT STREIN, author of "Santa Fe - The Chief Way," will be held at 1 p.m. at the Harvey House Museum in Belen. Rita Smith, RN, of Illinois, author of "My Experience as a Courier Nurse with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway," will also speak. For information, call 861-0581.

YOUTH ART CLASSES are being offered from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Belen Public Library. How does chi work? Make your art come alive. The class is for students in seventh grade and up. Instruction is free, students by supplies. For information, call David Mintz at 861-8250.

A KNITTING AND CROCHETING group, led by Ann Krom, meets at noon, every Saturday, at the Los Lunas Public Library.

FIBER TO FINISH, a spinning and weaving guild, for anyone interested in working with wool and other natural fibers to join in spinning, weaving and other hand work, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Belen. For information, call Diana, 864-7097, or Myra, 864-0876.

THE FIDDLERS AND MUSICIANS of New Mexico play at 6 p.m. at the Cowboy Hall on Arena Road in Bosque Farms. For information, call 864-6606 or 331-1778.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

A TAILGATE PARTY and Patio and Outdoor Art Show will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Tomé Art Gallery. Enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs; fountains, garden ollas, bird houses and feeders and more.

SOUTHWEST COUNTRY MUSICIANS will jam at 2 p.m. at the Duncan Memorial Building, 12 La Ladera in Los Lunas. Everyone is welcome to sing, play, dance or just listen. Bring your instruments and join in. For information, call 865-7985 or 249-6380.

MONDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 18-22

DUNCAN STUDIO, 130 N. El Cerro Loop, will hold art classes to include shadow boxes, bug boxes, cardboard boxes and fairy houses. For information, call 866-6076.

MONDAY, JUNE 18

THE VALENCIA COUNTY Community Band is now rehearsing at the First Baptist Church in Bosque Farms, 1350 Bosque Farms Blvd., in the old sanctuary. Anyone who has previously played an instrument, is welcome to join. Ability to read music is a must. We need flute, clarinet and trumpet for the concert band as well as all other instruments; we need guitar and piano and trumpet for the dance band; and guitar, bass guitar and piano for the Variety Combo. The Concert Band rehearses from 6 to 7 p.m. on Mondays. The Dance Band rehearses from 7 to 8 p.m. on Mondays. The Variety Combo rehearses from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays. For information on the VCCB, call 916-1776 for more information.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19

DRUMS ALONG THE SANDIAS, New Mexico's premier marching music event, will perform at 7 p.m. at Los Lunas High School stadium. Tickets are from \$15 to \$20, and can be purchased at www.drum-salongthesandias.com, Baum's Music or by calling 1-888-306-3786. Reduced price group tickets are available.

WRITING PRACTICE GROUP meets weekly. Learn to use writing for self-exploration and personal growth. The group meets from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Belen Senior Center, 715 Main St., and from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Belen Community Center at Eagle Park. For information, call 277-5191.

WATERCOLOR CLASSES for beginners, intermediate and advanced will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. At the Belen Art League Gallery. The instructor is Heidi S. Craig; and the cost is \$10 per session. For information, call Heidi at 864-6036.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY are presenting Tales for Tots at the Belen Public Library on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. In the library's children section. Storytellers will read a story, and there will be music and related craft activities. Everyone is welcome.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

OIL PAINTING CLASSES for adults is held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Belen Art League Gallery. The course consists of simultaneous instruction in drawing, composition, color harmony and mixing. The instructor is Dawn MacDougall; the cost is \$65 for four classes. For information, call Dawn at 861-5624.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

VALENCIA COUNTY WOODCARVERS Club meets from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Belen Community Center at Eagle Park. They offer free woodcarving instruction at any level. For information, call 864-6788.

BELÉN STITCHERS meets from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Belen Public Library program room. Anyone who embroiders, knits, beads, quilts or does other needlework is invited. For information, call Nan, 864-7671.

THE SPIRITUALITY IN ART art class is held from 5 to 9 p.m. every Thursday at the Belen Public Library. Learn to paint and make your paintings come alive. The cost is \$32 per month, plus supplies. For information, call David Mintz at 861-8250.

WRITING PRACTICE GROUP meets weekly. Learn to use writing for self-exploration and personal growth. The group meets from 10 to noon at the Belen Community Center at Eagle Park. For information, call 507-2686 or 861-5955.

THE VALENCIA COUNTY Community Band is now rehearsing at the First Baptist Church in Bosque Farms, 1350 Bosque

Farms Blvd., in the old sanctuary. Anyone who has previously played an instrument, is welcome to join. Ability to read music is a must. We need guitar, bass guitar and piano for the Variety Combo. The Variety Combo rehearses from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays. For information on the VCCB, call 916-1776 for more information.

A FREE MOVIE, "Big Miracle," will be shown at 6 p.m. at the Belen Public Library.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

BOSQUE CUADRILLOS square dance club meets from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Belen Senior Center on 715 S. Main St. in Belen. For information, call Greg, 883-8681, or John, 864-7901.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

YOUTH ART CLASSES are being offered from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Belen Public Library. How does chi work? Make your art come alive. The class is for students in seventh grade and up. Instruction is free, students by supplies. For information, call David Mintz at 861-8250.

A KNITTING AND CROCHETING group, led by Ann Krom, meets at noon, every Saturday, at the Los Lunas Public Library.

SOUTHWEST COUNTRY MUSICIANS will be holding a potluck at 6 p.m., jam at 7 p.m. at the Duncan Memorial Building, 12 La Ladera in Los Lunas. Everyone is welcome to sing, play, dance or just listen. Bring your instruments and join in. For information, call 865-7985 or 249-6380.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

THE FIDDLERS AND MUSICIANS of New Mexico play at 2 p.m. at the Cowboy Hall on Arena Road in Bosque Farms. For information, call 864-6606 or 331-1778.

MONDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 25-29

DUNCAN STUDIO, 130 N. El Cerro Loop, will hold art classes to include collage and mixed media. For information, call 866-6076.

MONDAY, JUNE 25

THE VALENCIA COUNTY Community Band is now rehearsing at the First Baptist Church in Bosque Farms, 1350 Bosque Farms Blvd., in the old sanctuary. Anyone who has previously played an instrument, is welcome to join. Ability to read music is a must. We need flute, clarinet and trumpet for the concert band as well as all other instruments; we need guitar and piano and trumpet for the dance band; and guitar, bass guitar and piano for the Variety Combo. The Concert Band rehearses from 6 to 7 p.m. on Mondays. The Dance Band rehearses from 7 to 8 p.m. on Mondays. The Variety Combo rehearses from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays. For information on the VCCB, call 916-1776 for more information.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

WRITING PRACTICE GROUP meets weekly. Learn to use writing for self-exploration and personal growth. The group meets from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Belen Senior Center, 715 Main St., and from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Belen Community Center at Eagle Park. For information, call 277-5191.

WATERCOLOR CLASSES for beginners, intermediate and advanced will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. At the Belen Art League Gallery. The instructor is Heidi S. Craig; and the cost is \$10 per session. For information, call Heidi at 864-6036.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY are presenting Tales for Tots at the Belen Public Library on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. In the library's children section. Storytellers will read a story, and there will be music and related craft activities. Everyone is welcome.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

OIL PAINTING CLASSES for adults is held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Belen Art League Gallery. The course consists of simultaneous instruction in drawing, composition, color harmony and mixing. The instructor is Dawn MacDougall; the cost is \$65 for four classes. For information, call Dawn at 861-5624.

CONTINUING

THE DUNCAN MEMORIAL Building, 12 La Ladera in Los Lunas, is looking for bands who would like to perform there. The performances will be free of charge, with a donation being accepted at the door to help pay for necessities. For information, call Jim or Dot Duncan at 865-7985.

THE MANSION PLAYERS, a theater group in Los Lunas, meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday. To participate, call Brian or Marie at 565-2154, or go to www.mansionplayers.org.

FREE LINE DANCE lessons are offered from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for beginners, and from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. for intermediates Tuesdays at the Fred Luna Senior Center, 315 Don Pasqual NW in Los Lunas. Instructor is Lynda Huffstutler. For information, call 839-3853.

FREE LINE DANCE lessons are offered for beginners from 8 to 9 a.m. and for intermediate dancers from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Thursdays; and from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Mondays for intermediate dancers at the Belen Senior Center. Instructor is Patty Herrington, 864-4266.

DANCE INSTRUCTOR FRED Laureta is giving beginning Latin/country western/swing dance lessons on Mondays, Thursdays at the Daniel Fernandez Youth Center in Los Lunas. The dance lessons will be held from 7:45 to 8:45 p.m. On Mondays and Thursdays, and from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday mornings. Learn to dance like pros, get ready for proms, graduation parties, weddings, fiestas and other social events involving dancing. The cost is \$2 per person, per class. Singles and couples are encouraged to participate. For information, call Fred Laureta at 966-6027.

FREE BEGINNING LINE dance lessons are being offered at the Bosque Farms Community Center from 1:30 to 3 p.m. every Thursday. For information, call 869-5133.

clubs/reunions

THE BELEN HIGH SCHOOL class of 1982 is looking for classmates for its 30-year reunion. Email contact information to belen-classof82reunion@gmail.com.

THE LOS LUNAS HIGH SCHOOL class of 1992 is preparing for its 20-year reunion, which will be held July 20-21, 2012. Send contact information to llhs1992@gmail.com or find them on Facebook.

THE BELEN HIGH SCHOOL class of 1962 is looking for classmates for its 50-year reunion. Email contact information to clas-sof62reunion@gmail.com.

THE LOS LUNAS HIGH SCHOOL class of 2002 is preparing for its 10-year reunion, which will be held July 21-22, at Hotel Albuquerque and a park in Los Lunas. Send contact information to llhsclassof2002@gmail.com or find them on Facebook.

THE LOS LUNAS HIGH SCHOOL class of 1982 is preparing for its 30-year reunion, which will be held Aug. 10-12, at Isleta Hard Rock Casino and the Luna Mansion. Send contact information to LLHS1982reunion@yahoo.com and visit our Facebook page and website www.loslunas82.net for further information and to register. Call 238-8580 or 934-1650.

THE BELEN HIGH SCHOOL class of 1967 is preparing for its 45-year reunion, which will be held July 20-22. Email contact information to annatruj1@msn.com or greenchil@aol.com, or call 720-6412 or 977-9382.

THE BELEN HIGH SCHOOL class of 1977 reunion committee is sponsoring a picnic reunion on Saturday, June 16, at the Baca Chica Campgrounds on N.M. 47, south of Belen. There will be a mixer at 4 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. For information, call Rhona Baca Espinoza at 463-5558, or ruapilot@msn.com, Venetia Freeman Yates at 864-2419, or ventialouie1977@gmail.com, or Carmen Ortega Shiplet at 861-3109.

THE BELEN HIGH SCHOOL class of 1992 reunion has been planned for 7 p.m., Friday, July 13, at Fat Sat's Bar and Grill in Belen; Saturday, July 14, at Holiday Inn Express in Belen for cocktails and dinner. The total cost for the events is \$60 per person. For information, email 1992.BHS.Reunion@gmail.com or through Facebook.

community

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

THE MEADOW LAKE Parks Area Association meets at 3 p.m. outdoors at the MLPAA property at the end of Meadow Lake Road. sAll are invited to attend. For information, call Jim at 865-9786.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

HISTORIC TOME-ADELINO Neighborhood Association meets at 5 p.m. at the Thome Dominguez de Mendoza Community Center off N.M. 47.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19

RIO COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION meets at 7 p.m. in the Valley Community Plaza multipurpose room and senior center in Rio Communities. The association will discuss the incorporation of Rio Communities.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

THE THOME DOMINGUEZ de Mendoza Museum off N.M. 47 is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

JOSE DOLORES CORDOVA Cultural Center Advisory Board meets at 5 p.m. at the center in Jarales.

education

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26-27

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION at Katherine Gallegos Elementary will be held from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Items needed are an original birth certificate, copy of immunization records and proof of residency. If you own your own home, bring in a mortgage statement and PNM bills. If renting, bring in a lease agreement and PNM bill.

CONTINUING

THE CAPTAIN TAMARA Long-Archuleta Memorial Scholarship is offering \$500 cash scholarships to students who were home-schooled in high school and attending UNM-VC or UNM Main Campus full time. Send transcripts and a short essay on how this scholarship will help you to: Capt. Tamara Scholarship, P.O. Box 819, Belen, N.M., 87002. The deadline for entries is Aug. 1.

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES for adult students are available at the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus. Students can now register for free English as a Second Language classes. Classes are offered in the mornings and evenings in Meadow Lake, El Cerro and at the campus in Tomé. For information, call 925-8900.

THE VALENCIA COUNTY Literacy Council is looking for individuals willing to read to children in local health care clinics. No experience is required, only a desire to help build an appreciation for reading in children. If you are able to volunteer one hour per week, or would like more information, call Irene Gogal at 999-9877.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

A RESTORATION FIESTA Blessing of the San Antonio Historical Mission de Los Lentos, Los Lunas, will be celebrated, starting at 10 a.m. with a Mass and blessing at the church. There will then be a procession with San Antonio and a recital of the Holy Rosary, led by the Catholic Daughters. Festivities will be from noon to 9 p.m. and include free entertainment, raffles, silent auction, dancing to local music and the famous green chile cheese Fiesta Burger. THE VALENCIA COUNTY Amateur Radio Association WFYI Volunteer Examiners will hold its testing session for technician, general and extra FCC licenses for ham radio operation. Testing will be from 9 a.m. to noon on the second floor of 302 Rio Communities Blvd. Tests are held every six weeks. For information, call 869-4303. THE VALENCIA COUNTY Animal Shelter and several rescue and animal welfare organizations will bring adoptable pets, educational materials, and will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tractor Supply Co. in Bosque Farms.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19

RURAL BOOKMOBILE WEST will be at the Christo Rey Church in Bosque from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.; and at the Veguita Volunteer Fire Department from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

A QUARTERLY BLOOD Drive will be held by the Rotary Club of Los Lunas and United Blood Services from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Wellness Center, Lambros Loop in Los Lunas. For information, or to make an appointment, call Jan or Pete Smargon at 565-0284. Walk-ins are always welcome.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

WOMEN IN FOCUS presentation will be held from noon to 3 p.m. in Room 101 of the Academic building at UNM-VC. It will include the viewing of the film, "Miss Representation," with a panel discussion on women and leadership to follow. For information, call 925-8830.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 23-24

THE VALENCIA COUNTY Amateur Radio Association (VCARA) will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at Willie Chavez Park from noon on Saturday, June 23, to noon, Sunday, June 24. The public is invited to attend and see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

THE SEVILLETA NATIONAL Wildlife Refuge will hold a special lecture series, "The Effects of Rainfall Variation in the Los Pinos Mountains on Lizard Populations," from 6 to 8 p.m. For information, call 864-4021.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

THE VALENCIA COUNTY Amateur Radio Association will hold its monthly club meeting at 7 p.m. on the second floor at 302 Rio Communities Blvd. The program will be the election of officers. For information, call 369-4958.

THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Center will hold a class, "Government Contracting 101," from 9 a.m. to noon in Room 101 in the Vocational Technical Building at UNM-VC. The cost is \$29, which includes a continental breakfast. To register, call Dave Carlberg at 925-8983, or at www.nmsbdc.org.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

AN AARP SAFE Driving Class will be held at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Belen Senior Center on South Main Street. For information, call 228-1090.

A BLOOD DRIVE will be held from noon to 3 p.m. at the Peralta United Memorial Methodist Church in the auditorium in the community building. To schedule an appointment, sign up at www.unitedblood-services.org.

CONTINUING

ALL MILITARY VETERANS are invited to proudly carry a large United States of America flag at the annual Los Lunas Fourth of July parade. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Baskin Robins in Los Lunas. The flag ceremony is sponsored by the Los Lunas Daniel Fernandez VFW Post 9676 and the Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 318. For information, call Frank A. Gurule at 865-6643, or James Garley at 865-5265.

THE BOSQUE FARMS Historical Exchange is looking for residents willing to share local historical memorabilia at the inauguration of the forum on Sunday, July 8. Anyone wishing to participate can call Bob Courtney at 459-3136 before July 2.

THE BELEN SUMMER FOOD Service Program will be held from 11 a.m. to noon from June 21-26 at the Belen Academy of Martial Arts, 715-B S. Main St. The Belen Academy will also be providing free martial arts classes. Registration will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

BELÉN ACADEMY OF MARTIAL ARTS is providing free yoga classes from 11 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays, beginning June 19 to July 23 in conjunction with the Belen Summer Food Service Program.

SOLVE VANPOOL EXPRESS has several openings for new riders. The Socorro-Los Lunas Vanpool Express is a not-for-profit group solely formed to provide transportation between the greater Los Lunas area (including Bosque Farms and Belen) and Socorro for employees of New Mexico Tech, the NRAO, or other reasons. Part-time and full-time riders are welcome. For information, visit SOLVE website, or contact Dr. Michelle Chreech-Eakman at mce@kestrel.nmt.edu.

Census: Some of the occupations included farmers, railroaders and a fortune teller

from PAGE 1B

the county for being literate.

Education in Belen

Almost 80 percent of the citizens of New Mexico could read and write in 1910 — a fairly good rate. About 75.3 percent of the adults in Belen could read and write.

An additional 3 percent of the adult population could read, but not write. And 19.8 percent of adults could neither read nor write. Some people did not answer the question on the census form — 1.6 percent of adults.

Children and teenagers made up 40 percent of Belen's population. About 47.3 percent of them were attending school.

Oddly, the census does not indicate whether the school-age population could read and write — the federal government probably assumed they were in the process of learning.

The other 52.6 percent of children in the community did not attend school — most of those were age 6 or under. Since the census was taken in the summer, probably quite a few of the 6 year olds were to start classes in the fall.

There were a few elementary school-age children, even one at 12, who did not attend school, but the majority in the appropriate age group seem to have been taking advantage of the opportunity to get an education. A few were especially ambitious.

At least one 12 year old worked as a waiter as well as attending school. All in all, the city could boast a fairly literate population.

Belen as a birthplace

Very few states of the union aren't represented in the birthplace column of the census.

While neighboring Texas can claim being the birthplace of 44 Belenites, nearby Arizona can count only eight and Colorado was the original home of 17.

Missouri and Kansas represented the largest population of transplants to Belen, with 45 each — probably as a result of following work on the railroad.

Other states with big birth contingents include Illinois with 25; Indiana and Wisconsin, each boasting 20; Pennsylvania with 17; Arkansas and Kentucky with 14 each; and Virginia with 10.

Fifty-two people were simply listed as having been born in the United States.

Working in the Hub City

Belen's economy appeared to be thriving — and was at a crossroads. While previously it had been a more agriculturally-based community, the railroad was then the primary employer in the Hub City.

A wide variety of railroad jobs were being held in Belen. The largest number of workers was the 120 who were employed as laborers of various sorts.

Also working for the railroad were three blacksmiths, a baggage employee, seven boiler-makers, a boiler watcher, two brakemen, three car inspectors, a car man, two car repairers, two carpenters, a cashier, four clerks, seven conductors, a detective, 21 locomotive engineers, 24 firemen, four fore-

men, a depot freight inspector, an inspector, five machinists, a machinist helper, an office worker, an office boy, four operators, a roundhouse office worker, one secretary, a special office employee, five switchmen, one timekeeper, two yardmasters and one yard office worker.

And that includes only the railroad workers who lived in Belen, not those in the surrounding rural areas.

Hotels and boarding houses had sprung up to serve mostly railroaders. Probably the most well known was the Belen Hotel, whose proprietor was the 36-year-old German-born Bertha Rutz.

Staying at the hotel on May 17, 1910, when the enumerator arrived, were a housekeeper and 14 male lodgers, all of whom worked for the railroad.

Census-taker Jaramillo has written that information was "secured from another" rather than from the guests themselves, thus their birth places were all simply given as in the United States.

One lodger's last name is not even registered; he's simply listed as Joe. They probably weren't at the hotel at the time to fill in details of their backgrounds.

Even the John Becker family, among the most prosperous in town, included four lodgers at his home, all probably working in his store.

Along with Becker, probably the most prominent member of the Belen community at the turn of the century was Felipe Chavez, El Millonario, the famous businessman whose

trade reached to the East Coast as well as deep into Mexico. The census tells nothing about him, since he had died in 1905, five years before the count was made.

Farming and agriculture were still a major part of the economy, even within the Belen city limits. A total of 70 men listed their profession as farmer, one was a farm manager and 56 others were farm hands or laborers.

Some of the farm hands worked with their fathers on family land while many others appear to be hired out while living in town with their own families.

Others in agriculture worked primarily with livestock, mostly sheep. There were 13 sheepherders, a sheep raiser, a stock purchaser, two stock herders and two stock raisers.

Probably the most intriguing occupations were listed by one couple. Layton Corrix, a 37-year-old native of Virginia, who sold patent medicine, and his wife, whose name on www.ancestry.com lists as Millred, also 37 and born in South America, was a fortune teller.

A variety of occupations

In other ways, one can see how the economy of the city was good, despite the county's decline in population.

There were many local residents working in the building trades: one in brick manufactory, 15 house carpenters, two housing contractors, a hod carrier (a laborer who carries supplies to bricklayers or masons), one brick yard worker, a house

laborer, a house painter, a worker in a lumber yard, a sawmill worker, a laster, six masons or bricklayers, a plasterer, a real estate agent and a surveyor.

Numerous other Belenites worked in the sort of businesses that spring up around most small towns. There were three bakers, a banker with his clerk and accountant, two barbers, six bartenders, three blacksmiths, three bookkeepers, four butchers, a central telephone worker, five cooks, a dress agent, a livery stable express man, a coal chutes foreman, five mill workers, nine merchants, a poolroom foreman, a restaurant keeper, 17 salesmen, a saloon keeper, a shoemaker, two working in the telegraph office, two grocery wagon drivers, three hotel waiters, a warehouse foreman and a wine maker.

There was a small professional class in town. There were four physicians, two lawyers, five druggists and pharmacists and 12 teachers. The doctors were William Radcliffe, John Bendale, W.H. Dempsey and Howard Bartlett.

The town was served by three ministers — the two French priests and one Protestant pastor, the German-born John Utesch.

Teaching was probably among the most highly paid jobs for women. Some teachers were young single women living with their families, such as Severa Baca, 24, and Evelyn Davidson, also 24, a music teacher who gave lessons in private homes.

A number of married women were also teachers, but most had

no children listed of their own.

While some other younger women, all living at home with their parents, worked as sales ladies, most of the older working women appear to be widows.

Their lives must have been hard: six of them were washer women or girls, 10 are housekeepers — nine for private families while one worked at a hotel — and three were maids for private families.


Only two women were employed as stenographers, a growing occupation for females in many areas.

Work was obviously also hard to find for many men — 55 of them describe themselves as laborers who sought whatever odd jobs they could find. Many of those were heads of households.


The final family visited by the census taker 18 days after the counting commenced was headed by Elijo Chavez. The 38-year-old stock herder — a cowboy, the quintessential job of the American West — could read and write and shared his rented home with his wife, Merenciana, 42, and their daughters, Bernarda, 8, and Maria, 7.

After their names, Census-taker Jaramillo wrote in dark ink in his very legible handwriting: "Here ends the Population of Precinct 2 Belen." And thus ended his snapshot of the Hub City in 1910.

(Editor's Note: In next month's La Historia del Rio Abajo: Los Lunas in 1910.)



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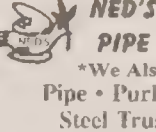
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and growing to be more like him"

BELEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
300 North 3rd, Belen, NM 87002
Pastor Larry D. Terrell
861-5342
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sundays: Traditional
Gospel Worship Service 11:00 AM
Wednesday 6:30 PM Bible
Study Prayer Service
"The Church where God's spirit is taught
through the holy Bible."
God is praised through praise worship with Gospel,
Contemporary & Traditional Music
4th Sunday Fellowship
Quarterly Saturday Prayer Breakfast
Youth & Teen Activities
Wednesday Evening
Men Women Ministry 3rd Sat. at 9:30am
Marriage Ministry 3rd Friday at 6:30
(location to be announced)
We are a multicultural congregation
"Go and compel them to com."
Luke 14:23
BELEN SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
115 E. Ross Ave., Belen • 505-864-0825
Services:
Bible Study 6 p.m. Wednesday
Childrens Church 6pm Wednesday (ages 2-9)
Sabbath School 9:30am Saturday
Worship Service 11am Saturday
GOLF ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST
Minister David Pafford
10 Golf Road, Belen, NM 87002 • 864-8170
Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.
CHRISTIAN FAMILY CHURCH OF GOD
318 S. 6th St.
Belen, NM 87002
Pastor Richard M. Garcia
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
(children's church provided)
Wednesday
Prayer 5:30 p.m., Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Youth Group
2nd & 4th Sundays at 5:00 p.m.
Bosque Farms
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Located at the corner of
Bosque Farms Blvd. & Sheppard Ln.
869-3588
Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Active Youth Group
www.bfcoc.org
Los Chavez
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOS CHAVEZ
09 Los Chavez Park Road • 865-7701
(Across from Old Mill on Hwy 314)
Boyd Morero, Pastor
Sunday Schedule:
Sunday School 9:30AM
Morning Worship 10:30AM
Evening Worship 6:30 PM
Wednesday Services 7:00PM
Nursery provided for all services
Los Lunas
CALVARY CHAPEL'S NEW HARVEST
601 Main Street, Suite 50
(Mondel Plaza, Behind Arby's)
Los Lunas, 87031 • Phone# 866-9832
Sunday Services
9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Bible Study
Servicio en Espanol
Domingo a las 11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship
Children's Ministry available in all services.
Monday
"V1th Legion Military Support Ministry"
1st and 3rd Monday of month 7:00 p.m.
Corporate Prayer 6:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
"Little Tast of Heaven" Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday
7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Youth Group 7:00 p.m.
Thursday
"Evening Prayer Group" Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
"High And Lifted Up" Addictions Ministry 7:00p.m.
www.calvarynhil.com
Men's Ministry 3rd Friday of the month 6:00 p.m.
Women's Ministry last Saturday of the month 9:30 a.m.

OPEN DOOR CHURCH OF GOD
3419 C Hwy 47,
Los Lunas, NM 87031
505-449-9770
Pastor Jim Montoya
pastorjim@loslunaschurchofgod.com
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Service - 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday English Classes - 6:00 p.m.
Marriage Classes
4:00 p.m. Sunday
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
914 Los Lentes Rd. SE. Los Lunas • 865-7957
Dr. Cecil Rice
Sunday School (Bible Study) 9:30 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
6:30pm Wednesday Evening Service
EPISCOPAL CHURCH ST. MATTHEWS
400 Hunting Ranch Loop West
Father Robert Mundy, Vicar
Cell: 859-5165 Home: 865-6544
10:30 a.m. Sunday Service
Child care available
5:30 p.m. Friday Evenings: Healing
Wed. 10:30 Holy Eucharist
VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
3259 Highway 47, Los Lunas, NM 87031
505-865-6169
9:00 a.m. Traditional Services
10:15 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
12 Thomas Rd., Los Lunas, NM 87031
505 865 3066
Sabbath School 9:30 on Saturdays Church 11:00
GRACE FELLOWSHIP
3384 Hwy 47, Los Lunas
Bible-led, Spirit Filled
865-4722 Fax 865-2051
www.gracennm.org
Pastors: Clifford Chavez & Sergio Carbajal
SUNDAY: Contemporary Praise & Worship Service
10:00 AM (Includes sign language interpretation)
Adult Bible Class 8:30 AM
Congregational prayer: 8:30-9:30 AM
Children's Church 10:15 AM
(Nursery & Pre-school during service)
WEDNESDAY: Freedom Youth Church 6:45 PM
www.freedom-nm.com
Royal Rangers/Impact Girls' Ministries 7:00 PM
Group Meetings in Area Homes (Including Spanish)
Men of Integrity Breakfasts
Women of Grace Gatherings & Outreaches
VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
Be our Honored Guest as we
worship in Spirit and Truth!
Mondel Plaza 601 Main Street Suite 40-B
Preaching by Larry Martin
Sunday Services
Bible Classes 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
1st & 3rd Tuesday
Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 PM
(more info. call 554-4723)
Call Larry for other Bible study times at 550-3473
HOSANNA ASSEMBLY
727 Cortez, Los Lunas • 865-5536
P.O. Box 550, Los Lunas, NM 87031
KARS Radio Broadcast at 8am Sundays
(1st St. just south of Village Inn)
Services
10:00 a.m. Sun. morning
6:00 p.m. Sunday evening
Pastor Tommy Cnider
Everyone welcome!
e-mail: NMHosannaAG@aol.com
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN
Proclaiming the love of God
in our Savior Jesus Christ
P.O. Box 907 (700 Camelot Blvd. S.W.), Los Lunas
Missouri Synod
For information:
Call: Pastor Alan Coleman, 865-9226
Website: www.chnsthekingnm.org
Sunday Schedule:
Service 9am
Holy Communion - 1st and 3rd Sundays
Children welcome in all services
Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
**Wednesday Schedule:
Augsburg Confessions Study at 9:00 a.m.
Lutheran Women's Missionary League
2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.
Friday Services 7:00 p.m.
WESTSIDE FAMILY CHAPEL
It's not about religion,
it's about relationship**

Sunday 9:00 am-Footsteps Bible Hour (all ages)
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Thursday Youth Group 7:00 p.m.
19 El Cerro Road • Los Lunas, NM 87031
Pastor Larry Chambers 505-866-0621
www.westsidedfamilychapel.org
COVENANT LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1119 Hwy 314 NW • Los Lunas, NM 87031 • 865-6752
Pastor Mark Schroeder, Pastor Alonzo Garcia
Jesus Christ the same
yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13:8
SUNDAY
Prayer 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY
Ladies Coffee Corner 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
A time of food, fellowship and ministry for women
Lisa @ 865-6752 for information
Intercessory Prayer at 7:00 p.m.
FRIDAY
Freedom Night 7:00 p.m.
Ministering freedom from addiction
through the power of Christ
Call Pastor Alonzo Garcia @ 818-3586 for information.
Children's church available kids carrying the kingdom
Peralta
PERALTA MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
25 Wesley Road • 865-9334
(1 Mile North of Valencia "Y", off Hwy 47)
SUNDAYS
8:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship
Children's Church at 11:00 Service
Sunday School - for all ages at - 9:45 a.m.
Mid High Youth (6th-8th) Grades 5:00 p.m.
High School Youth Group 9th-12th Grade 6:00 p.m.
www.peraltamethodist.org
email: pnmumc@questoffice.net
Rio Communities
ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER
Pastor Barney Carbajal III
105 Avenida del Fuego • 864-3743
Non-Denominational
Sundays:
English Service 10:00 am
Intercessory Prayer 9:30-10:00 am
Wednesday Midweek Service 7pm
Nursery Provided
Free Downloadable MP3 Messages at
www.alcobelen.org
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
85 Manzano Expressway
in Rio Communities
864-4560
Co-pastors
Rev. Jeff Finch and Rev. Laura Niles Finch
firstpresbelen.org
• Sunday Services
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour follows
Nursery Provided For Services
Wednesday Choir 7:00 p.m.
Other Activities
Men's Breakfast 7:45 a.m.,
3rd Sunday Monthly
Presbyterian Women 9:30 a.m.,
2nd Tuesday Monthly
Mariners 6:30 p.m., 1st Tuesday Monthly
Book Club 1:00 p.m.,
3rd Thursday Monthly
SIERRA VISTA BAPTIST CHURCH
104 La Luna Place - Rio Comm.
• Pastor: Alvin Keeney
Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship 7 p.m., Wednesday Midweek
Traditional Services
ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
113 La Luna Place • Rio Communities
Church 864-7954
Vicar - Rev Diane Figge
Adult Bible Study at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Eucharist & Healing Prayer at 10:00 a.m.
Children Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Avonite

Name of business: Avonite, Inc.

Address and telephone number: 1945 Highway 304, Belen, 87002; call (505) 864-3800.

Owners: Private corporation owned by Aristech Chemical Corporation and the Ross Group of private individuals.

Other key employees: J.J. Windfelder, President; F.J. Scott, executive vice president; Richard Fila, chief financial officer; and Michael Williams and Allan Hanlon, New Mexico sales.

What products and services do you offer?

Sheet stock for counter tops and other surfaces; resin-based sinks and vanity bowls; molded products for garden landscaping; installed countertops in the Rio Grande Valley.

What makes your business unique?

We manufacture sheet goods for world wide distribution. We install finished tops for central New Mexico market. We train independent businesses to fabricate and install countertops using our sheet products. We have the broadest range of products in the solid surface market.

How long has it been in business?

Avonite was incorporated in 1983 — 14 years of operation.

Do you have a business or a service philosophy?

We strive to be the best solid surface company in the world. In this endeavor, we are committed to continually improve the performance of our organization in order to create value for our customers, suppliers, employees, communities and stockholders.

Are there other things you'd like people to know about your business?

We use teamwork and quality process improvement methods to continually improve performance.

What's the most unusual service you've offered a customer?

We have created unusual molded or fabricated articles to help promote our customers' businesses.

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colors and

THE DAYS OF (18)49 IN BELEN

(La Historia del Rio Abajo is a regular column about Valencia County history written by members of the Valencia County Historical Society since 1998.

la historia del
rio abajo



Richard Melzer

The author appreciates the generous assistance that Ronnie Torres and the late Jim Sloan provided in the preparation of this article.

Opinions expressed in this and all columns of La Historia del Rio Abajo are the author's alone and not necessarily those of the Valencia County Historical Society or any other group or individual.)

You can tell a lot about a town and its citizens by what they celebrate with their festivals or fiestas. Hatch has its chile, Roswell has its UFOs, Deming has its ducks, Albuquerque has its balloons and Pie Town has its pies.

For 230 years, Belen has had its Our Lady of Belen Fiestas. It has also had the World's Largest Matanza since 2000. But in the 1920s and 1930s, Belen had another celebration that was almost as famous and as well-attended as its present-day fiestas and matanzas: the Days of '49.

What was this community event and what made it so popular in Belen and many other towns? What activities filled these days and nights with old-fashioned merriment? And what do the Days of '49 tell us about Belen and its people in the decades between World War I and World War II?

Birth of the '49ers

On Jan. 24, 1848, miners discovered gold nuggets on Sutter's Creek east of Sacramento, Calif. Word of the discovery spread around the world, causing one of the largest gold rushes in modern history. Thousands arrived by 1849. Some got rich quick. Most did not.

Regardless of their economic fate, the men and women who participated in the California gold rush became legendary figures of the Old West. By the early 20th century these new heroes, known as the '49ers, were celebrated in countless songs, poems, movies and popular novels.

Proud of their victory in World War I, many Americans of the 1920s celebrated their patriotism with parades, rallies and elaborate Fourth of July celebrations. The people of Sacramento, including some whose ancestors had arrived with the gold rush, decided to celebrate their history with a six-day event filled with old-fashioned amusement from May 23-28, 1922.

News of Sacramento's new holiday spread, especially among patriotic organizations like the newly-organized American Legion. One of the first Days of '49 in New Mexico was organized by Herman G. Baca and American Legion Post No. 19 in Belen in May 1926.

Using Belen's celebration as a successful model, Days of '49 events were held across New Mexico, including in Silver City by 1927, Tucumcari by 1929, Raton by 1930, Bernalillo, Kingston and Hillsboro by 1932, Gallup and Las Vegas by 1935 and Santa Fe by 1943. Belen held a second event in 1939.

Appropriately, the New Mexico School of Mines (now New Mexico Tech) held Days of '49 events from 1921 to 1940 and in the post-World War II era from 1946 to 1960.

Beards and costumes galore

Since facial hair was popular among miners in 1849, it made sense for men to grow their whiskers during the Days of '49. In fact, in Belen and most towns, men were required to grow whiskers for the duration of the celebration.

In 1939, a newspaper reporter



Jim Sloan collection

People dressed for the Days of '49 celebration at Belen in front of the First National Bank building in 1920.



Jim Sloan collection

Jean Moore, Rev. Joseph Peterson, Marion Herlihy and Dr. Edward Brentari dressed for the Days of '49, 1939.

visited Belen and found that "there are black beards, brown ones, red ones and even gray ones, all shaved and trimmed to every conceivable shape." The reporter added that "Seemingly only one group is not enthusiastic about the whiskers and it is the women."

While enthusiastic men won prizes for growing their beards, less cooperative males received punishments if they refused to sprout whiskers. Kangaroo courts were established in many communities, including Socorro where court was held on the plaza. Humorous penalties ranged from small fines to temporary banishment from town.

Community leaders also offered prizes for the best costumes. In 1926, the people of Belen wore every kind of old-time attire, from top hats for men to dance hall dresses for women.

Former Valencia County Sheriff Joe Tondre wore the uniform of a frontier army officer. Then-sheriff Antonio Archuleta impersonated an Indian scout. In 1939, Belen was said to be "completely overrun with bright shirts, cowboy boots and 10-gallon hats."

Women wore their hair in old-fashioned styles. Most wore long calico skirts and bonnets. Women won prizes for their fashions in categories like "Diamond Lil," "Old Lady of '49," "Young Lady of '49" and "Cowgirl."

Parades, speeches and human icicles

Days of '49 celebrations were nearly as famous for their parades as for their costumes and beards. A Days of '49 parade in Belen took 30 minutes to pass by a

men rubbed him down with alcohol to stimulate his blood circulation and help get him warm. According to one witness, Jones "was no worse for the experience, unless the cheers hurt his ears."

Other events

Games of chance drew many people to Days of '49 events. Felipe Chavez's old mansion in Belen was converted into a Monte Carlo palace during the Days of '49 in 1939.

In 1924, Socorro's Days of '49 organizers had to rent a roulette wheel from the local justice of the peace, who had secured it in a raid in 1924. Two years later, leaders from Belen went all the way to Gallup to pick up a roulette wheel, probably acquired in a similar fashion.

Many Days of '49 scheduled baseball games, races and tug-of-wars over muddy pits, with predictable results. Fireworks were regular nightly attractions. Belen's first celebration in 1926 included fireworks that displayed not only the Stars and Stripes, but also the flags of our World War I allies, England and France. Lively music and dances followed.

Despite their popularity, Days of '49 celebrations had their share of problems. With 10,000 people in attendance in 1939, traffic jams were inevitable in Belen. Every available parking space on Main Street was taken.

The parade was 45 minutes late in getting started. A short rain shower followed a typical spring dust storm.

Entertainment changed

Days of '49 remained popular until the end of the Great Depression and the start of World War II. Except for the Fourth of July and war bond rallies, most towns did not hold celebrations during the war as most citizens focused on winning the conflict overseas.

The country and its entertainment changed considerably after the war. Rather than participate in events like the Days of '49, many Americans preferred to be spectators with the introduction of television, transistor radios and other forms of sedentary amusement. Only Magdalena's Frontier Festival and Estancia's Old Timers Day resemble the Days of '49 in New Mexico today.

If you can tell a lot about a town by its celebrations, communities like Belen celebrated the Days of '49 because the event reminded them of old values and old ways of having fun. Nostalgic events help slow a rapidly spinning world, if only for brief, joyful moments of time.

people places



Mike Powers

What to wear?

It is time to come clean and clear my conscience. I may have cost the Belen Eagles a victory in the state baseball tournament in May. Not because of mistakenly contaminating the team's pre-game meal, accidentally tripping the star pitcher, or bribing the umpires to win a bet.

Worse than that. While covering Belen's 4A quarter-final game against Artesia, I wore a blue shirt. Los Lunas Tiger blue. What's in a color, you ask? Plenty, when it comes to the Eagles-Tigers rivalry.

Last season during a Tigers' basketball game, an administrator questioned the maroon shirt I was wearing. My explanation was it represented my alma mater, the University of Montana and not Belen.

During an interview last summer with then-new Eagles football coach Kevin Pena, he remarked that he insists his grandson, from Los Lunas, not wear Tiger colors when visiting. "In our house, we live and die maroon and white," Pena explained.

So, walking into the Eagles' dugout that morning, surrounded by maroon and white, one could sense I made a fashion faux pas. Was it my imagination, but was every eye glaring at me? Soon, an Eagles' coach made a light-hearted joke about my attire, something like, "Did you go to the wrong game?" Ouch.

For a split second the thought of going shirtless was considered, but quickly rejected. The morning air was a bit chilly. The coach even offered his maroon wind-breaker to cover the mistake. "No thanks."

In the world of sports journalism, wearing the colors of the team you are covering is a major no-no because it shows favoritism. As I was told many years ago, "There's no cheering in the press box!"

To appreciate the gravity of the situation you need to accept that baseball is the most superstitious of all sports. Players and coaches MUST hop over the chalk lines. No one is allowed to mention that a pitcher has a no-hitter in progress. And, who can forget "The Curse of the Bambino?" Oh, lordy, what have I done, dredging up such negative karma?

So, with that background, why would I wear a blue shirt into the Eagles' dugout on game day? Flashback to the night before as I laid out my clothes for the next day. Yes, I do that.

My closet is full of pull-over Polo shirts, basically separated into three sections: maroon from the University of Montana; blue and orange, associated with two daughters who graduated from LLHS and my wife who works there; and red and turquoise from Valencia High School where my son graduated, and I was a volunteer soccer coach.

Three groups, all associated with a school I cover on a regular basis. That complicates things, making a person more prone to a wardrobe malfunction. The first thought while rummaging through the hangers is, "who am I covering tomorrow?" Is it Jaguars, Eagles or Tigers, oh, my? It just as easily could be any two or all three.

Over the course of 12 months, I've tried to acquire more bland attire to avoid conflicts. However, wearing grey and brown clashes with a certain "hip" reputation.

Turning to more flamboyant colors was attempted.

• VETERAN OF THE MONTH •

David F. Boyd

United States Army

David F. Boyd was born and raised in Montrose, Calif. In high school, he ran cross country and was elected to the senior class government in La Canada High School, graduating in 1965.

He enrolled in Pasadena City College, and graduated in 1967 with an AA degree in marketing. After graduation, Boyd was drafted into the U.S. Army in July 1968, with a three-year commitment, going to boot camp at Fort Ord, Calif. Since he already had his AA degree, that education allowed him to be assigned to Service School at Fort Lee, Va., for training from September through November 1968.

As a result, he immediately was promoted to a rank of specialist E4. Spc. Boyd was deployed to Cam Ranh Bay U.S. Army Depot 1st Logistical Command in Vietnam, where he served from December 1968 to the end of 1969. His duty was an inventory supply auditor and his success in that deployment earned him a promotion to specialist E5.

Imagine David's surprise when he and his unit were offered the choice to go to church on Sunday instead of working or learn to water ski. He went to church but, you guessed it, he did both and returned to the states knowing how to water ski.

Upon returning from the deployment, Spc. Boyd finished his military career at Fort Meade, Maryland, with the HHD 42nd Trans Battalion, where he was honorably discharged in July 1971.

David Boyd received the following service decorations: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal W/60 Device, 2 O/S Bars Sharpshooter Badge Rifle M14, Expert Badge Rifle M16 and the Good Conduct Medal.

After discharge, Boyd was employed by a national bank on



Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., for about 10 years. He enjoyed spending time at the Smithsonian while in D.C.

In October 1980, he moved to Albuquerque to help with his aging parents. A friend asked him to join him at a square dance party and there he met Kathy, whose friend had invited her to the same party. Kathy, who had recently become a widow, later became his wife, and David became a stepfather to Kathy's 7-year-old son.

After his marriage to Kathy and working a few more years in the banking industry, David was looking for a change. He attended truck driving school in 1995, quickly attaining his professional truck driving certificate. For the next 16 years, he worked for several trucking companies and retired from ABF Freight Systems on Oct. 31, 2011.

During the past decade while living in Belen, the Boyds have been enjoying retirement and spending time with their son and two grandchildren.

David and Kathy volunteer at Valley Lutheran Church in Los Lunas and at their HOA, Sunrise Bluffs, in Belen. David volunteers to handle maintenance, repairing and installing whatever is needed at the HOA.



Alfalfa field in Jarales, unknown date.

Courtesy of the Valencia County Historical Society

(News items collected from the News-Bulletin and other nearby newspapers.)

July 27, 1901

A rollicking band of cowboys owned the town of Socorro Monday. They chased up and down the street, pelting each other and washing each other's faces indiscriminately with chunks of watermelon. When the stock of melons gave out, somebody was discovered to have a box of shoe polish in his possession. It was not 15 minutes until every one of the gang had had his face smeared to the queen's taste. For a hilarious, roaring time no assembly of God's creatures can beat a band of cowboys on a lark. *Socorro Chieftain*

July 1, 1905

Many eastern cities have taken steps to secure a quiet and rational celebration of the Fourth of July this year. Nothing has been done to that end in Socorro. Here any young American may whoop himself black in the face and blow himself into the kingdom come at his own free will. It can only be hoped that it will be possible to collect enough of the mangled remains for purposes of identification. *Socorro Chieftain*

July 2, 1908

Tomé, N.M., was the scene of very elaborate

Photo courtesy of the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts

Days gone by

and impressive ceremonies which began last Monday morning and lasted until Tuesday evening ... The celebration was in honor of the 52nd ordination to the priesthood of Rev. John Baptiste Raillere, as well as the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the installation of that reverend gentleman as pastor of the Tomé church, at which place the ceremonies took place. He said to one of his brother priests, in regard to the celebration, "These have been two of the happiest days of my life." *Albuquerque Citizen*

July 28, 1910

According to Colonel W.M. Berger, of Belen, there is every likelihood of skyscrapers and flat iron buildings being erected in Belen before not many years have passed. The colonel stated that the new Harvey House would be completed by September 15 and that an electric light plant, a power plant and an ice plant were being contemplated by local capitalists. *Albuquerque Journal*



FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION

Submitted photo

The Rotary Club of Los Lunas recently recognized Valencia County Sheriff Detective Josh Burbank for extraordinary service to the community. The recognition was supported by The Range Café, Ruttilio's Restaurant, Pizza 9, and Teofilo's Restaurant. Pictured, from left, are VCSO Detective Josh Burbank and Lt. Stephen Hall.

Capt. Tamara Long-Archuleta Memorial Scholarships

Twelve \$500 Capt. Tamara Long-Archuleta Memorial Scholarships will be awarded to students attending UNM-Valencia campus or UNM Main Campus full-time. Students must have graduated high school in Valencia County and preference will be given to home-schooled students. Mail copy of transcripts and a one-page essay about how this scholarship will help you in your educational goals to: Capt. Tammy Scholarship, PO Box 819, Belen, NM, 87002. The deadline is Aug. 1, 2023

People: Wearing colors

from PAGE 7


including yellow, mauve and chartreuse. You should hear the snide remarks at the office.

Back to the ballgame in question. The Eagles got off to a slow start, which made me think more and more that it was my blue shirt's fault.


As the Eagles soared back and took the lead, there was a sense of relief. I'm off the hook. Nope. Soon, Artesia had a rally of its own and nailed down the victory.

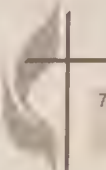
After the postgame interviews, a quick escape was planned in hopes of putting my debacle in the past. Certainly, it had to be an overreaction, all in my head and soon to be forgotten. However, on my way out of the park, two Los Lunas coaches were standing nearby, each wearing a polo shirt nearly identical to mine! Yep, this is going to haunt me.

Perhaps there is a solution for the future. What if I start wearing shirts featuring every color of the rainbow? That can't possibly offend anyone, right?



Valencia County Church Directory






75 Manzano Expressway
Rio Communities
505-864-6095


First United Methodist Church

Joe MacDonald, Pastor
Home of Watch Me Grow Preschool
Sally Elledge, Director
Sunday
9:00 am Contemporary Praise Worship
10:15 am Adult Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional Worship
Children Sunday School or Nursery
(Available during Worship Times)
4:00 - 6:00 pm Youth Group
Please check website for other activities
www.firstumcbelen.org



Valencia County Cowboy Church

Sunday Church Service 10:00 am
Sunday: Adult Bible Study 9:00 am
Monday: Bunkhouse 4:00 pm / Bible Study 6:30 pm
Tuesday: Youth Group (13-18 years old) 6:00 pm
Wednesday: Bible Study 6:30 pm
Thursday: Bible Study 6:30 pm
1 AT&T Road
Los Lunas, NM (off Hwy 6)
(505) 907-3500
valenciacountycowboychurch.com



First Presbyterian Church of Belen

85 Manzano Expressway
In Rio Communities
505-864-4560

Worship Service Sunday 10 am

For full schedule visit:
firstpresbelen.org

Like our Facebook page

Streaming Live on YouTube & Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM

FIRST BAPTIST BOSQUE FARMS
REAL TRUTH • REAL LIFE

Pastor Brian Mull

Worship Sunday 10:30AM, Wednesday 6:30PM

Prayer Gathering, Children's Church, Ladies & Men's Bible Study, MOPS, Small Focused Groups from Birth - Grade 12, Choir, Fellowship.

Visit our website for a full calendar of Mission Events, Organizations & Services
www.fbcbf.com | 505.869.2759

Abundant Life Christian Center

Pastor Barney Carbajal III
105 Avenida del Fuego
864-3743
Non-Denominational

Sundays:
English Service 10:00 am
Intercessory Prayer 9:30-10:00 am
Wednesday Midweek Service 6:45 pm
Nursery Provided
Free Downloadable MP3
Messages at alcctoday.org

CALVARY CHAPEL

Sunday 9:30am/11am
Spanish Translation/Kid's Church
Deaf Interpretation


Wednesday 7pm
Spanish Translation/Kid's Church
Youth Group

Pastor Ray Jaramillo
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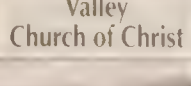
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"A place you can call home"

DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS

\$15 +tax per issue, with a six-month contract. The deadline for Thursday's edition is noon on Fridays.

For questions, call **Denise Ortega** 505.823.7830, or email dortega@dchieftain.com



MCCORMICK—Lifelong Belen resident, Louis A. "Hank" McCormick, 84, passed away on December 5, 1998 in Clovis, NM, following complications of a long illness. Hank was born in Paris, TX and when he was a child, his family moved to Belen. Hank retired from the AT&SF Railway in 1970. He was a U.S. Army Veteran, stationed in Alaska during World War II and also fought in the Philippines. A very talented artist, art teacher, lecturer and historian, Hank was very involved in the community through membership in the Belen Art League, Historical Society, Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, National Rifle Association, New Mexico Wildlife Federation and many other organizations. Hank was a charter member of the Belen GPA, now Belen Shooters Sports and he was one of the organizers of the Belen Railway Credit Union. Hank was also an accomplished statesman as he served two four-year terms on the Belen Airport Advisory Committee. Hank's hobbies had been football, painting, hunting, fishing and conservation. Hank was preceded in death by his three sisters and two brothers. Hank is survived by a niece, Shirley Hollandsworth; and a nephew, Bobby Hollandsworth and wife, Sharon and their son, Monte, all of Clovis, NM. He is also survived by his cousins, Tommy Dils and family, Louie Huning and family, Frances Jo Roehrig and family, Steve Roehrig and family, and Louise Fenn and family, as well as many close friends, neighbors and associates in Valencia County. Graveside services will take place Thursday, 10:00 a.m., at Terrace Grove Cemetery with Reverend Milford Misener officiating. Honorary pallbearers include Monte Hollandsworth, Tommy Dils, Cliff Dils, Loren Dils, Alan Dils, Louie Huning, Steve Roehrig, Donnie Roehrig, Anthony Baca, Charles Tosh, Charlie Seery and Gilbert Garcia. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Hank's name to the Belen Public Library or the Belen Historical Society. Funeral arrangements handled by Romero Funeral Home.



Three-year-old Lindsey Scott, left, and Sarah Salazar, 5, try out a vintage bubble-gum machine.

April 7, 1955

OFF the BEATEN PATH



By

HOWARD BRYAN

Editors Note: This is the second of two columns on some of the history of Belen.

During the early 1800's Belen, like Albuquerque, was divided into two settlements, known as Old Town and New Town.

Old Town, the original settlement, was located near the river bank and was the site of the first church in Belen. The area along the northeastern fringe of present Belen, east of the railroad tracks, is still known as Old Town.

New Town sprang up in the early 1800's about a mile or two to the west of Old Town, or where downtown Belen is today. The first settlers of New Town included the Baca family, which was to remain one of the most influential families of Belen for many years.

There was quite a bit of rivalry between the residents of old and new Belen, and this rivalry came to a head in 1855 when the church in Old Town was wrecked by a flood.

Rev. Fr. E. Paulet, a French priest, arrived in Belen in 1856 to become pastor of the church. Seeing the ruinous condition of the church in Old Town, he announced that it would be abandoned and a new church would be erected in New Town, farther from the river where it could be in less danger from flood waters.

This decision made the residents of Old Town hopping mad. Some of them refused to attend mass in the rival settlement, and some went into the old church and took away the vestments and sacred vessels.

Archbishop J. B. Lamy, hearing of the revolt, excommunicated all those who persisted in rebuilding the old church and said he would suspend any priest who conducted services there.

Fr. Paulet, who was holding services each Sunday in the New Town home of Vicente Baca, demanded that the church ornaments be returned. This was done, and the rebels later were brought back into the good graces of the church.

* * *

Work on the new church of Neustra Senora de Belen was started in 1858 and completed in 1860. The church bell cast in Cincinnati, was shipped to Belen over the Santa Fe Trail the following year.

The original church in Old Town was repaired later to serve as a court house in 1872—when Belen was the county seat of Valencia County. The old structure was demolished in 1884 by a heavy rain.

The old ruins were purchased in 1910 by John Becker Sr., pioneer Belen merchant, who dynamited the crumbling rock and adobe walls and used the

material as a lining for Becker Ave., which he built from the depot to his flour mill. So when you drive down Becker Ave. today you are driving over the remains of Belen's first church.

Mr. Becker, incidentally, was the first postmaster of Belen, serving from 1873 to 1913.

The church in New Town was remodeled and enlarged in 1918-19. The church, as it stands today, incorporates only the roof and tower of the earlier structure.

* * *

The Santa Fe Railway arrived in Belen in 1880, but it did not bring the prosperity to Belen that it did to some other towns along the way. Belen had a population of only 685 persons 10 years later.

The railroad came to Belen again in 1902, however, and this time the town began to boom. The occasion was the building of the Belen cut-off, the Santa Fe line connecting Belen with Amarillo.

A tent city sprang up in Belen in 1902 with the coming of the railroad construction workers. The First National Bank of Belen was incorporated a year later as the town began to prosper.

The old Hey Day Club, a town booster organization, resolved into the Commercial Club and erected a two-story headquarters building. The club became the Chamber of Commerce in 1924 with Paul Dalies as the first president.

The Belen cut-off, completed in 1907, made Belen an important railroad center. A Harvey House was erected near the depot.

Belen's first newspaper, The Belen Tribune, was started in 1906 by the father of the late Damon Runyon, noted New York sports writer and author. The newspaper office burned down in 1912.

* * *

Belen was incorporated in 1918 with R. Jacobson as the first mayor.

The Belen Airport was constructed in 1928. The first pilot to land on it was a native son, Art Goebel, a nationally known aviator. Goebel won the Dole race to Hawaii in 1927 and held the cross-country non-stop flight record in 1928.

Belen today has an estimated population of 5000 and it is believed that there are at least one or two thousand more living just outside the city limits, which are rather tightly drawn.

The most interesting route between Belen and Albuquerque is Highway 47 along the east bank of the river. The paved road follows the route of the Conquistadores through the picturesque and historic settlements of Tome, Peralta and Valencia—towns which are linked closely with the history of Belen and Valencia County.

1910

OCT 7 1918

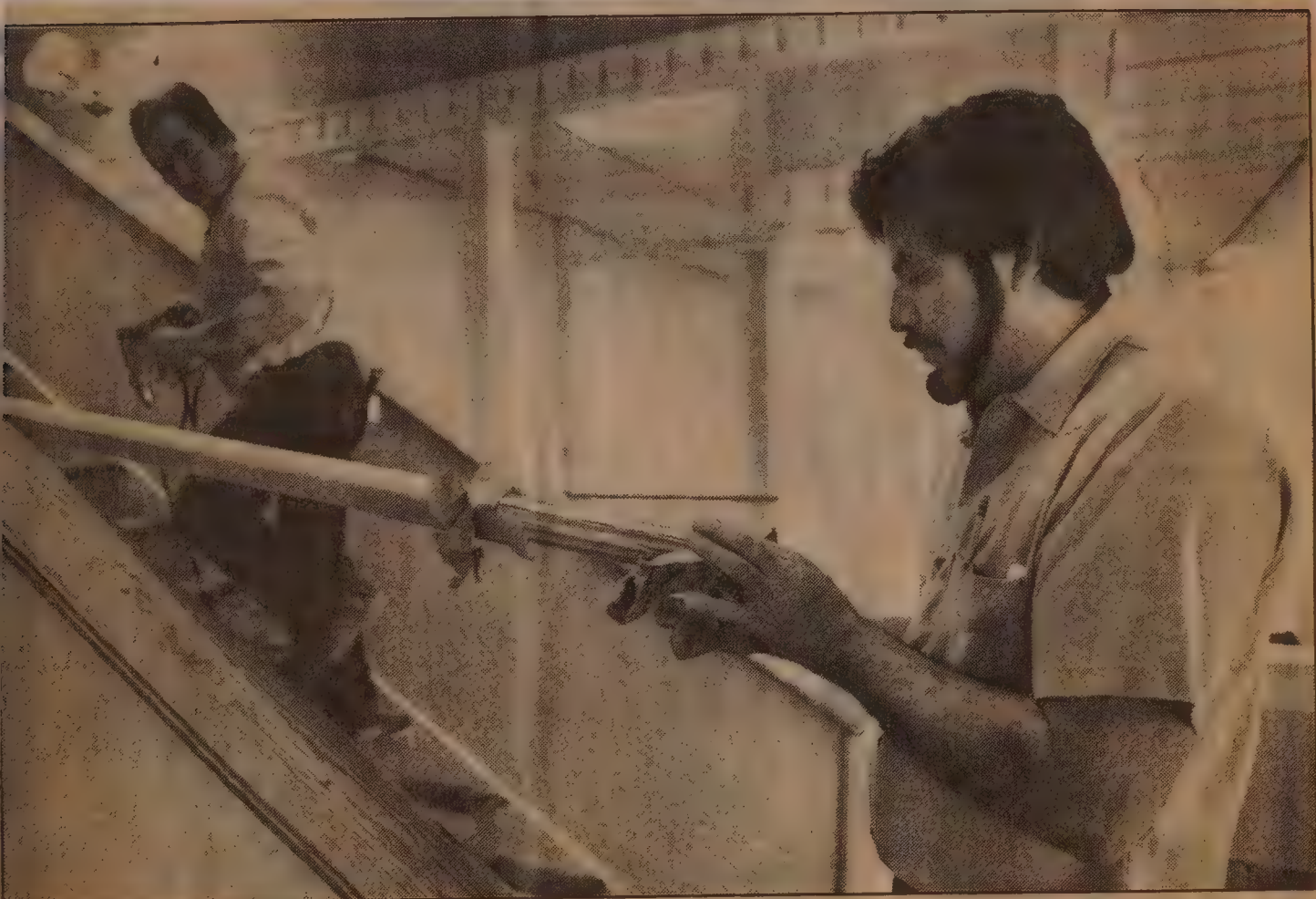


Joe Maestas suspended on an old hand-operated freight elevator in F&E Plaza.



PHOTOS BY SANDRA TATUM

F&E Plaza in Belen has been restored in New Mexican territorial style.



Richard Martinez, left, and Angel Telles install the mall's custom brass handrail on staircase.

June 1984

VALENCIA COUNTY NEWS-BULLETIN

Gentry Plaza now complete

TIERRA DEL SOL—Gentry Plaza here recently completed its third and final phase, with only one rental unit vacant.

Developer Ron Gentry said the former home of Snip 'n Curl, which moved to larger quarters across the plaza, may soon be occupied by a real estate company.

The diverse business serving the area there are Gentry Electric, Hypnosis Research and Training Center, Jerry's Barber Shop, Robert Hildebrand (an accountant), Choice's Restaurant, the Used Book Store, Coker's Southwest Originals,

Dr. Robert Schoos, E&R Bakery and Snip 'n Curl.

Gentry Electric was the original shop opened up, back in 1981, when Gentry, who is a state representative, developed the first phase on the southern end.

Choice's was built in 1982, and the final phase, where the book store, Coker's, Schoos, E&R and the beauty shop are located, was completed earlier this year.

"This is a full-rounded complement of businesses—a multi-service shopping plaza," Gentry said. "I'm not pitting my tenants against each other."

Gentry estimated half of the traffic comes from "up and down the Valley area," including Mountainair to the south and Los Lunas to the north.

"This is the closest business area for this side of the river," he added.

According to Gentry, barber Jerry Delettera is responsible for naming the plaza.

"He called me up one day and announced he had put it in the paper in an ad," Gentry recalled.

Gentry Plaza is located on NM6, Tierra del Sol, just south of the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus.



NEWS-BULLETIN Photo

Coker's Southwest Originals, one of the many shops in Gentry Plaza, is a haven for

those looking for something Southwestern for the home, or for a gift or souvenir idea.

New Look Updates Old Belen Building

By Arley Sanchez

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

BELEN — Three years ago, Joe Maestas was unsuccessful when he tried to buy the historic Becker-Dalies building in Belen before it was demolished.

When the equally historic Feil and Ellermeyer building became available later, Maestas negotiated with the owner of the building. And this time, he got it.

"It was a combination of economics and trying to save the building," said Maestas, a Valencia County commissioner. "A landmark like this is irreplaceable. It has become a part of Belen."

For decades, the two buildings stood side by side on south Main Street in Belen and formed the commercial and economic hub of Belen. At various times, the buildings held a variety of merchandise such as groceries, clothing, furniture and hardware.

The founders of the Feil and Ellermeyer building were William Ellermeyer and Paul Feil, German immigrants who helped forge Belen's economic vitality in the early 1900s. Another German immigrant, John Becker, built the neighboring building. He was later joined by his nephew, Paul Dalies, who came from Wisconsin to help in the general mercantile store and later became a full partner.

While the Becker-Dalies site is now an empty lot, the Feil & Ellermeyer building has been restored by Maestas. To be known as the F&E Plaza, the building is a minimall of small specialty shops and offices. Maestas invested about \$500,000 in the project and secured about \$600,000 in financing from a local bank to complete it.

Maestas and six tenants are planning a January grand opening in the building, which has had its brick exterior remodeled in territorial style architecture.

Tenants so far include ABC Balloons and Handcrafts, Forever Flowers, Ron's Sporting Goods, Tams Teens, G&S Gift Shop and the Soup and Salad Express.

"In the design of the building, I wanted some new, but I also wanted to retain some of the old," Maestas said.

Adding a distinctive touch of old is a hand-operated freight elevator installed when the building was constructed in 1928. A vintage cash register, bubble-gum machine and glass display case are among some of the other artifacts that add antiquity to the mall's atmosphere.

Accentuating Belen's status as a railroad town, the Soup and Salad Express restaurant features a large-scale model railroad train, which runs quietly above customers on a 120-foot-long rectangular track.

Says Maestas, "I always felt this building was a part of the culture and history of this town."

"It was a combination of economics and trying to save the building. A landmark like this is irreplaceable. It's become a part of Belen."

- Joe Maestas

2017-004-030

63rd Year

Thursday, March 21, 1973

DEL RIO PLAZA ON RIVER ROAD

\$2.3 million shopping

Sixth & Baca

Belen, New Mexico

center will be built



THIS SIGN WAS erected Tuesday on the site of the proposed new \$2.3 million shopping center to be built this summer at the east edge of Belen on an 8.2 acre site just north of River Road (East Reinken) and east of Campbell

Road. The 2-story house in the background is the W.A. Taylor home on the site sold to the shopping center developers, Peterson-Watson Co. of Albuquerque.

BULLETIN

Thursday, July 13, 1978

Door Firm Buys Cannoncraft Site

By ELLEN SYVERTSON

BELEN—The Cannoncraft building, located five miles southeast of town and left vacant since its closing last July, will reopen soon to manufacture flush doors, according to Ed Clements, president of the Dependable Lumber and Supply Co. in Denver, Colo.

The new firm here will be incorporated as the Dependable Door Co., Clements said, and will open within 45-60 days.

He said the plant will employ 40 workers initially on one shift, but he was unable to say now how many shifts will be used at the 125,000-square-foot facility located on a 20.87-acre site. The payroll could include as many as 100 employees once production begins, he said.

He said hiring would begin in the near future, with clean-up workers to be among the first hired.

Wages will be higher than those of Cannoncraft, which closed its doors after the company claimed continued decreases in

Cannoncraft manufactured movable louvered shutters, fixed louvered shutters, frame shutters, Castilian shutters, fixed louvered multi-fold doors and movable

louvered multi-fold doors.

"We hope to enter the Belen business community with a strong economic base and erase the memories of Cannoncraft," Clements said, adding that the firm is one of the largest of its type in the nation.

He estimated the first annual payroll to be \$320,000, and he said almost all workers would be local people.

Firm Vice President Richard Menard was expected to arrive here this week to open an office, and Clements said he would be in town Friday to inspect the plant. Menard will head up the local operation.

Equipment began arriving this week at the plant, in the form of large blow pipes. More will be arriving soon from Savannah, Ga.; Stanley, Va.; and Portland and Klamath Falls, Ore.

The local individuals who have worked on getting the plant reoccupied during the past year include members of the Chamber of Commerce Industrial Development Committee, headed by Lyle Painter; Chamber President Leo Gabaldon; City Manager Richard Aragon; and Vista volunteer David Gallagher.



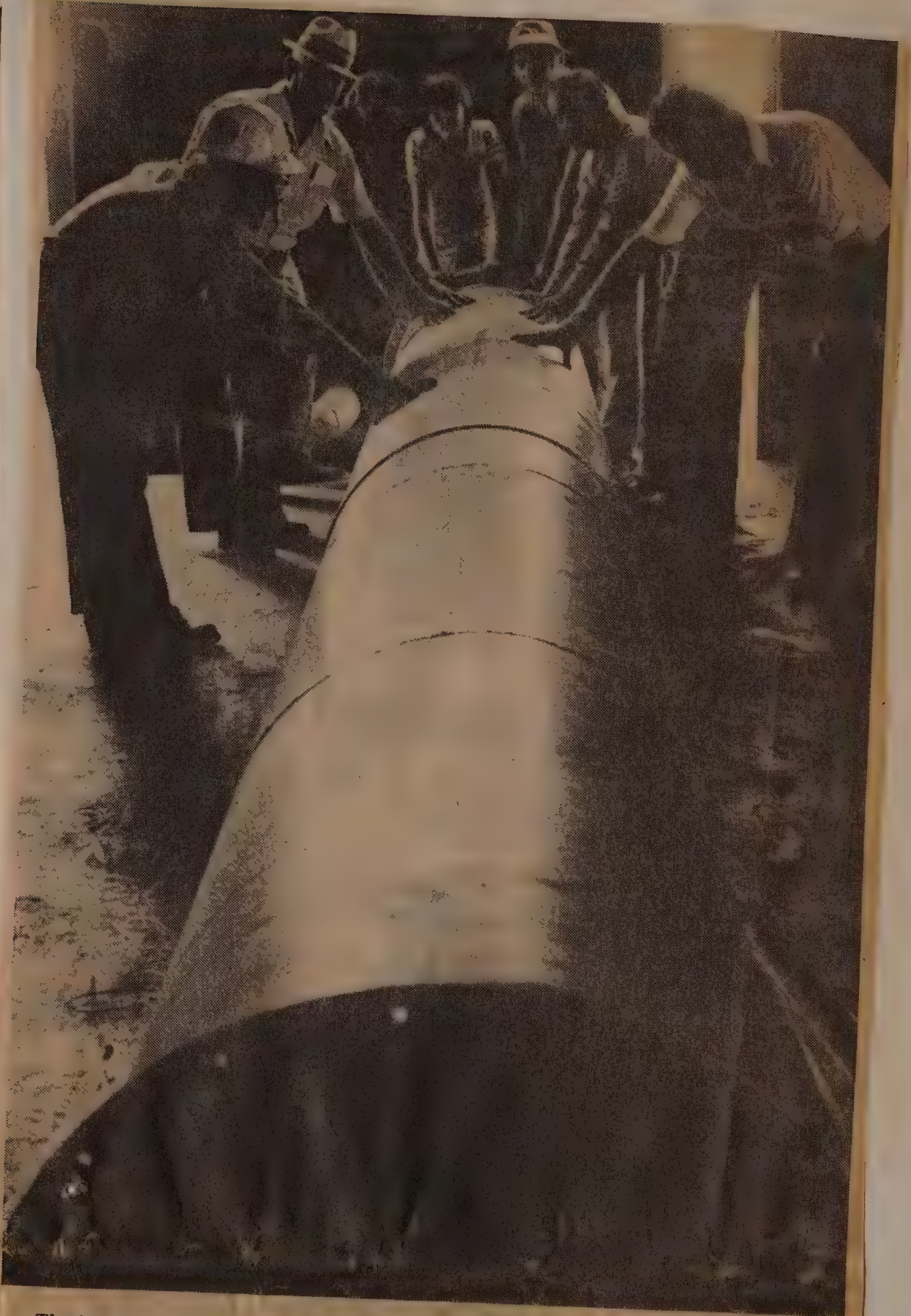
Staff Photo by Ellen Syvertson

The former Cannoncraft building was the scene of activity this week as the first load of equipment arrived to accommodate a new production plan. Pictured above, counter clockwise, are city employee Joe Pena; City Manager Richard Aragon; truck driver Bob Hicks and his son, Mark; Lyle Painter of the Chamber of Commerce Industrial Development Committee; Mayor Neel Alexander; and Marty Gomez.

Deaths

ROSEMARY KEITH DAVIS

Guy Broekstra, Rt. 2, Box 77, L reported his daughter was bitten b she walked down a dirt road near The sheriff's report indicated th control officer did not respon deputy's call to pick up the dog, because he did not have a vehicl



Staff Photo by Ellen Syvertson

The former Cannoncraft building was the scene of activity this week as the first load of equipment arrived to accomodate a new production plan. Pictured above, counter clockwise, are city employee Joe Pena; City Manager Richard Aragon; truck driver Bob Hicks and his son, Mark; Lyle Painter of the Chamber of Commerce Industrial Development Committee; Mayor Neel Alexander; and Marty Gomez.

2 DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES DAMAGED

Tornado strikes Belen; leaves 'raining' debris

Thursday, May 29, 1975



SURVEY DAMAGE--Earl Carr, left, Belen office Public Service manager, and Earl Peter, owner of Ranchero Builders, look in astonishment at the damage left by the tornado which touched down in Belen Tuesday. A line was jerked loose by the twister and Carr said electricity to most of Belen west of Main St. was lost for 32 minutes. He said some 1800 homes and businesses were affected, mostly west of Main but a few isolated areas east of Main St. also lost power.



Bicentennial 1776-1976

65th year

Thompsons mark 10th year in Belen

Donn and Marge Thompson, owners of Thompson's Gamble Store, are celebrating their 10th anniversary as retail merchants in Belen.

After moving to Belen 10 years ago, the Thompsons operated their Gamble Store on the east side of Main Street for seven years before buying the building at their present location at 115 S. Main St.

Prior to coming to New Mexico, Thompson was a meteorologist for the weather bureau in Kansas.

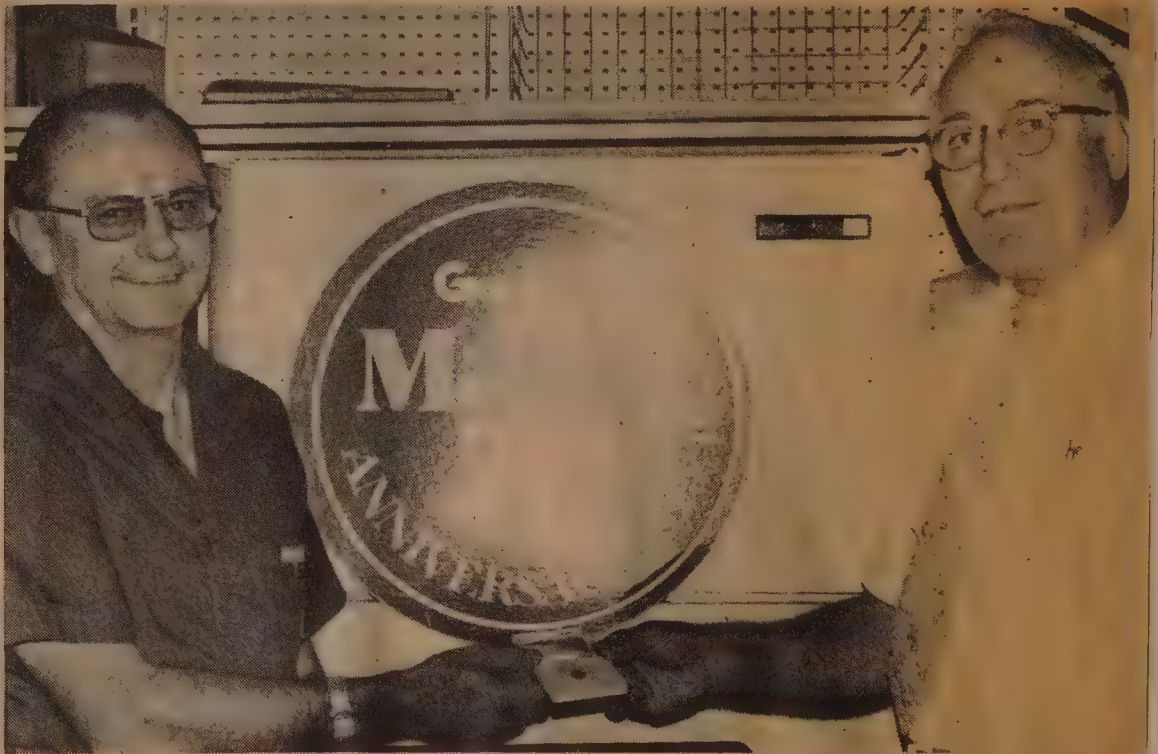
The Thompsons have three sons, all of whom are either working in the store at the present time or have in the past. The oldest, Jim, is working in the store this summer and will be a senior when he returns to Eastern New Mexico University at Portales next month. Tim is attending summer school at New Mexico State University where he will be a junior next semester and Jonn is currently employed at the store and a senior at Belen High School.

In conjunction with their

10th year as owners of a Farnham of Albuquerque, Thompson was presented with a 10-year service pin from Gambles this week by Bill

zone manager for Gambles. Coinciding with the anniversary are special price

reductions on store merchandise as described in the Gambles insert included with this publication.



MARKING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY of their business association, Gambles Zone Manager Bill Farnham of Albuquerque [right] presents a 10-year Gamble Dealer Service pin to Donn Thompson, owner of Thompson's Gamble Store at 115 S. Main St.

1017-004-028

Thursday, December 28, 1978

Daisy's to Close

Daisy's Market, 201 S. Main, is closing soon.

All of the stock has been reduced, and all of the equipment is for sale... the freezers, shelves, butchering equipment.

After 25 years in business in this community Daisy's Market has become an institution. It's been the kind of "Mom and Pop" store where regulars come in every morning just to buy the paper and discuss the political scene; the kind of store that school kids frequent for lunch and fill the aisles.

The owners, Alvaro and Daisy Maestas, first purchased the grocery partially because they had "never traded in a large supermarket ourselves."

They had always shopped with Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Bean, owners of the original store located where Twinette Beauty Salon is now. When the Beans put the store up for sale, Daisy and Alvaro bought it.

Eventually, Daisy's market expanded into the U. & R Shoe Store before moving to the present location.

As can be expected with a loyal following, Mrs. Maestas said some customers have expressed disap-

pointment.

"People have said things like, 'Oh, no! what a sad Christmas present you're giving us.' " said Mrs. Maestas.

"Or," added daughter Jeannie Kear, "they say things like, 'I don't know where I'm going to shop now.' "

The Maestases attribute part of their success to the personal services they were able to offer their customers that a larger supermarket can't.

"You help people pick out their groceries, help them across the street..." said Mrs. Kear.

Daisy's Market has been a family operation from the beginning. In fact, even the first employees were related: Theresa (Mrs. Pat) Sanchez, Erlinda Maestas, and Johnny Garcia. Mrs. Kear has been managing the store for the past year.

The market will close "as soon as we sell out... the end of the month or the first of the year," said Mrs. Maestas. At that time, she and Alvaro will retire, or rather, semi-retire to enjoy other activities. A local businessman has purchased the store itself, and the next use of the building is unknown at present.

AROUND NEW MEXICO

SUNDAY
June 11, 1972
Page G-1

Murals Destroyed

Historic Belen Building Razed

Journal Special

BELEN — A building which was one of the last vestiges of one of eight plazas which formed the original town of Belen, thirty miles south of Albuquerque, and the building's walls, which featured mural paintings by a Mexican painter, has been torn down.

The former Bacaville post office and general store was located on south Main St. in Belen prior to its recent demolition. Bacaville was the name of one of eight plazas which formed the original Belen.

Razed as part of a current city program to do away with abandoned and unused structures, the building had been badly damaged by the Belen flood of 1969 and a lack of a solid foundation led to a deterioration of the walls.

Although the sides of the building were swaying prior to demolition because of the damage, the walls themselves featured wall murals reportedly painted by Mexican painter Edward Ramos in the early

1900's.

THE STORY IS told that Ramos did not sign the paintings because he was in the United States illegally and feared deportation. Among the paintings is one of a mission, another of an Indian seeming to overlook a lake and a peacock who appears to be watching the other murals.

The original building was constructed in 1874 by the late Juan Rey Baca as a general merchandise store which was known as the J. R. Baca Store. This building was destroyed by fire.

The building torn down was built in the 1880's or 1890's and contained a post office for the Bacaville area as well as the general merchandise store.

This post office was used until 1912 when the Bacaville mail was routed through the Belen post office, built in 1907.

During the late 19th Century, the small community of Bacaville also had a small school, located just south of the store.

AFTER THE POST office

was closed, the building was used as a dance hall, advertised as the "Bacaville Inn" with dances, cabins and a gas station. Also advertised was regular meals of tamales, enchiladas and posole for 35 cents.

The Bacaville General Store founded by Juan Baca sold virtually everything needed by

the people of the small community, remembers Mrs. Clayton Vance of Belen, Baca's granddaughter. The store had a combination cafe, dance hall and bar, in addition to the post office, and sold hardware, ready-to-wear clothing, groceries, dry goods and other items.



Bacaville Building's Mission Mural
Believed Painted by Edward Ramos



Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Vance of Belen
Last Look at Now-Razed Old Building



Staff Photo by Chad Perry

A Bad Show

The press gets its lumps from time-to-time. All of us working as reporters, photographers, editors, publishers or managers have heard the complaints: "I was misquoted!" . . . "Yeah, I said it, but you took it out of context!" . . . "I said no such thing, and I challenge you to prove that I did!" . . . "Why do you want to print stuff like that; that's not news!"

Sometimes we are wrong, like any group of people doing any kind of job. But like any kind of people doing any kind of job, we shouldn't have to take abuse, either physical or verbal.

A reporter for this newspaper got a little of both last Thursday, when he stepped into a **public street** to do the job to which he was assigned.

With high temperatures softening pavement, heavy trucks have been tearing huge places in our streets in Belen. The reporter was sent out to photograph some of these places and prepare a story on the problems and what the city is doing to correct them.

Two of the worst such places are on Seventh Street between Reinken and Chavez and on Baca near Tabet Lumber Co.'s concrete batching plant.

When the reporter stopped near the lumber yard—in the **public street**—one of the owners, Herman Tabet, rushed into the street, kicked loose gravel at him, jerked on his camera and pushed him around.

As far as we're concerned, a newspaper reporter is no different than any other person doing whatever job he does. But nobody should be accosted for doing his job, and especially in a public street where he has every right to be.

We think it was a regrettable incident which gives the reporter and others who saw either the incident or its follow-up—involving policemen and other city officials—a bad impression of a man who is supposed to be a business leader in the community. It was an especially regrettable incident considering that the reporter is new in town and had no idea who was charging across the street yelling at him, or why.

One hopes for greater civility than that, and feels that when common courtesy is discarded, it should be pointed out so others might be reminded of how not to behave.

Former councilor McCormick dies

BY SANDY BATTIN
NEWS-BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

What you remembered most about Louis A. "Hank" McCormick depended on what you talked with him about.

To people at the Valencia County Historical Society, he was a fantastic source of information, a

BELEN

man with a memory that could match date and details with events six or seven decades ago.

To the people at city hall, he was a former councilor who helped make the Belen municipal airport a reality.

See McCormick, page 6A

McCORMICK *from Page 1A*

To the Belen Art League, he was a talented painter who was generous in teaching others, someone who mixed his love of history and his sense of humor in one-of-a-kind drawings of the place he loved.

To the men he met with every morning at Buckland's Pharmacy for coffee, he was a raconteur with a sharp wit who knew something about just about everything.

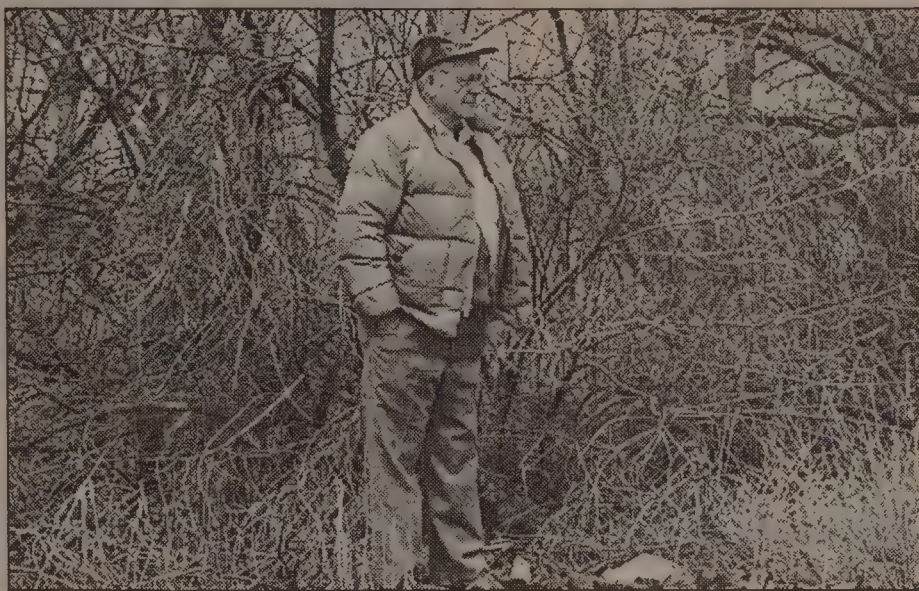
McCormick died Saturday in Clovis, where his niece and nephew had brought him to care for as he suffered from heart disease, Parkinson's disease and a broken hip. His old friends in Valencia County could hardly believe that things could go along without him.

"We've lost a treasure, a living treasure," said Belen historian Maggie McDonald. "He was just wonderful. I couldn't believe how good his memory was. He told me about an event that had happened and then he said he thought it happened this year and such-and-such a month and on a day toward the end of the month — and he was right! He could pinpoint events almost to the day."

For the historical society, McCormick was a link to the past. As a boy, he was friends with the daughter of Felipe Chavez, El Millonario. "He was a young boy, probably a teen, and she befriended him. She was an old lady then and he was interested in history and he got all kinds of information from her," McDonald said.

Gilbert Garcia was not only McCormick's neighbor, but had also served on the Belen City Council with him in the 1980s.

"He was a great thinker. He'd sit on his front porch and just think," Garcia said. "He was always the fellow that was the consensus builder. In his own way, he'd talk to people at city hall, he'd talk to residents on both sides of an issue. He was a good mediator. He could see both sides of an issue without get-



News-Bulletin Photo

Hank McCormick is shown in a photo in one of his favorite places — the great outdoors. Here, he's showing his concern about littering in the area.

ting emotionally involved."

Garcia saw McCormick every day for the three decades he'd lived across the street from him. "We hunted together for 20-some years. We were very, very close. He had a big impact on my life. Kids don't always listen to their folks, but you tend to to a stranger. I just think he probably kept me from a lot of problems and encouraged me a lot."

He was also a charter member of what people called the Coffee Club at Buckland's. Owner Richie Brower said the group is getting smaller, but the old friends still come in to drink coffee and share their opinions. "They talked about everything from politics to the murder rate," Brower said. "He was a steady fixture for a good 20 years. I liked him. He was a real nice man."

Tommy Dils was McCormick's cousin. He remembered the older man's stories about being drafted in 1939 because he was an experienced railroader. "He ended up in Alaska, working on the railroad up from Siska to White Horse. ... Later, he landed up in the Philippines. He was one of the very first ones to get drafted," Dils said.

The railroad had been McCormick's home away from

home. He started out as a "call boy," a teen who'd go to the homes of engineers and conductors to alert them about when their next train would be leaving.

He really learned his way around Belen. "He was a good artist. He had one that is looking from where Norwest Bank is now. It's looking down Becker and Dalies. It has a sign showing the way to Socorro that pointed in the direction of Albuquerque. You had to go north across the bridge, then over the old river bridge and then clear down by La Joya," Dils said.

One of McCormick's favorite things to do was go hunting. Dils said among the people he'd go goose hunting with was the renown University of New Mexico anthropologist, Frank Hibben. "Frank Hibben loved going with Hank and he'd hunted worldwide, in Africa and so on," Dils said.

Garcia said McCormick was well thought of — and certainly missed already. "On Saturday, when he died, we were at a dinner dance that the Pilot Club held," Garcia said. "About the time he died between 9 and 10 p.m., at least six to 10 people asked about him. I thought it was so unusual ... just a whole stream of people asking about Hank."

First Del Rio Plaza merchants expected in December



THRIFTY'S NEW MANAGER, John McMillan, left, and a personnel representative for the company, Ron Missick, Los Angeles, interview William Kreft of Belen for a position in the new Del Rio Plaza store.

The Thrifty Drug and Discount Store and the True-Sight Optical Shop are expected to open the new 101,040 square foot Del Rio Plaza Shopping Center Dec. 12.

Darlene Stone, leasing agent for the new center, adds that the new 3,000 square foot Western Auto Store should be completed shortly before the first of the year and that the Safeway and T.G. & Y. store will be completed in January.

Ray Hise, the district supervisor for T.G. & Y. in Albuquerque, says "We plan to open in February."

However, Dick Moorefield, an official for Moorefield Construction of Los Angeles, the shopping center's contractor, believes that "all the stores can be completed by the first of the year."

About 60 workmen for Moorefield are rapidly completing the final phases of Del Rio Plaza's construction on River Road.

Ms. Stone says the shopping center may include 15 shops when completed, including possibly a quick service restaurant.

Last week, Industrial Services of Albuquerque finished paving 230,000 square feet at the center, enough space

for at least 474 automobiles.

"You can't believe how big Thrifty is until you've seen it," Ms. Stone adds.

The 21,440 square foot store is spacious. Over 40 aisles already have been installed in the store. The signs indicate Thrifty will sell cameras, records, rugs, appliances, ice cream, clothing and eight aisles of sporting good items.

"It's a one-stop shopping area, Ms. Stone claims. "The prices are the same here as in Albuquerque."

She adds that Belen merchants previously have been hampered by a "sales leakage problem." This means that area shoppers often traded in Albuquerque if the items weren't available in Belen stores or if prices were lower in the Duke City.

Del Rio Plaza may be the opiate to stop this leakage, the leasing agent believes.

Joe Williams, the Western Auto Store manager in Belen, intends to move his store "in January" to its new location in the Del Rio Plaza. Presently he doesn't intend to hire any more employees, "just myself and my wife," but employment in Belen will rise when the center opens.

Tuesday morning Norma Chavez, the executive secretary of the Belen Chamber of Commerce, said she received at least 20 calls from people asking how to find the Thrifty store. These people were answering ads for employment in the new store.

The manager of the Belen Thrifty, John McMillan of Albuquerque, says 250 people applied for jobs at the new store on Tuesday.

"Initially we'll probably have 35 to 40 employees," he says.

McMillan, a 18-year employee of Thrifty, previously managed the company's store on Juan Tabo at Menaul in Albuquerque. He plans to move to Belen in January.

"Naturally we will hire more people," Hise says of the new T.G. & Y. "We will probably have 50 employees."

The 30,000 square foot T.G. & Y. is the biggest of the Del Rio Plaza stores. The store is over five times as large as the present T.G. & Y. in the Tabet Shopping Center. Manager Ken Tannery says he has only "11 or 12" employees in his present store.

He says the new T.G. & Y. will include "a lot of new departments," mentioning a

line of ready-to-wear articles, sporting goods, televisions and electrical supplies, an auto supply shop, builders' supplies and stereos.

Safeway's new store--which could open in January--will have 25,000 square feet. Manager Joel Hughes says the new store is twice as large as the present 11,500 square foot Safeway in the Tabet Shopping Center.

"We may have to hire some new people," he says.

"Belen is an area that's growing... an area which needs a good shopping center," Ms. Stone says.

Peterson Properties, the Del Rio Plaza parent company, is owned by Jim Peterson of Albuquerque, Harold Mooreland and Lloyd Thibodeaux of Los Angeles.

Moorefield's construction company is constructing the new center which is designed by Dyer/McClernon Architects of Albuquerque and David Chavez, architect, of Los Angeles.

Ms. Stone still has another ten small stores to lease, but she feels "I'll have a couple new ones to announce each week."

Single Copy
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The News - Bulletin

64th Year

Thursday, November 28, 1974

Sixth & Baca

Belen, New Mexico

y, July 11, 1974



CHUCK POT ROAST

USDA Choice
Grade Beef
7-Bone Cut,
Lb. 98¢

Blade
Cut
Lb.
88¢

USDA Choice
Grade Beef

Full
Center
Cut, 1

ROUND S



CHUCK POT ROAST

USDA Choice
Grade Beef
7-Bone Cut,
Lb. 98¢

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USDA Choice
Grade Beef

Full
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ROUND S

uly 11, 1974



JOEL HUGHES, manager of the Belen Safeway store on Reinken Avenue, looks over the architect's rendition of what will be his new store in the Del Rio Shopping Center now under construction at River and Campbell Roads, east of Belen. Anticipated completion date is mid-October or early November. The new store will be about twice as large as the current store.

New shopping

Continued from page 1

mass advertising and pricing schedules to cover a wide area. The center will be operated on an equal basis to any of the like centers in Albuquerque in terms of merchandise quantities and pricing structures.

Del Rio Plaza represents the culmination of over 2½ years of work on the part of the Peterson-Watson developers with the major tenants. The center has been needed for some time, according to Peterson, because the growth of the overall area has created a demand on existing facilities that cannot be met.

People want to shop as close to home as possible and when you have a lot more people you have to have larger stores with more merchandise. That is what Del Rio Plaza will offer, said Peterson.



July 11, 1974



AT THE GROUNDBREAKING ceremonies Monday for Del Rio Shopping Center, Campbell and River Roads, interested parties joined in breaking the ground for the facility which developers expect to have open on or about November 1. From left to right are Joel Hughes, manager of the Belen Safeway store (Safeway will have a new store in the shopping center); Joe Milavec of Peralta, a real estate broker who has worked with the developers; Luz Chavez, second vice president of the Belen Chamber of Commerce; and Gary Watson of Peterson-Watson, the developers of the shopping center.

anager of the Belen Safeway store on ks over the architect's rendition of what n the Del Rio Shopping Center now under r and Campbell Roads, east of Belen. n date is mid-October or early November. bout twice as large as the current store.

New shopping center to be finished by mid-November

opping
m page 1

Completion of the Del Rio Plaza Shopping Center, River and Campbell Roads, is anticipated for mid October or early November, according to Gary L. Watson of Peterson-Watson, the developers.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Monday for the new \$2.3 million center which will be 19,400 square feet of shops for local merchants.

Approximately 100 people attended the groundbreaking ceremonies including members of the Belen Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, representatives of the Belen banks including Ranchers Bank president Henry Jaramillo, First National Bank president John C. Johnson and vice president James Foley, and other interested parties including Mrs. William Taylor who with her husband sold the land for the new shopping center.

Two of the three major tenants in the shopping center are already operating in Belen and their move to Del Rio will represent an expansion of their existing facilities.

Safeway, now located on Reinken Avenue, will double the size of its present store. Belen Safeway manager Joel Hughes was present at the groundbreaking Monday.

T.G. & Y. will open a "family center" which will be three times the size of their current store on Reinken Avenue.

The third major tenant is Thrifty Drug and Discount Store which handles a wide range of drug and other merchandise including a full line of top name sporting goods.

Watson said that there has been strong interest in the center from a number of local merchants and that they will be given first preference in occupying space.

Now that construction has started the leasing program will be put into full swing, said Watson. An information and leasing office will be opened in the old Taylor residence on the north end of the center.

The location selected and approved for the center is actually located in the county but immediately adjoins the city limits.

Both Jim Peterson of Peterson-Watson and Watson have high praise for the cooperation they have received from the county and city officials.

Watson said that "anytime you have an area that has the tremendous growth that Belen has had in such a short period you have alot of short term problems. We hope that it will not be too long until we are annexed into the city proper and we look forward to it.

"We feel," added Watson, "that we can be of help in solving these problems (of growth) by constructing a center that will be attractive and useful for a number of years to come. Not only will the addition of local jobs be of help but there is also the consideration of tax and service revenues."

Moorefield Construction Co., a Los Angeles, Calif., based construction firm, is the general contractor on the center. Watson pointed out that it is their intent to use local labor and materials to the fullest extent.

"It is always our goal to put as much of the construction money as possible into the local area where we are working,"

said Watson.

Wood Industrial Surfacing Inc., owned by Paul Wood of Belen, has been given the clearing, grading and paving contracts for the center. The construction phase of Del Rio will employ as many as 250 people and add in excess of \$1.5 million in construction revenues locally, said Watson.

Upon completion, according to Watson, the center will employ over 120 people and produce upwards of \$15 million in sales proceeds for the area.

Peterson said that the center will not only boost the local construction industry but after completion the center will help existing merchants by "minimizing sales leakage."

There will be less of "I can't get it in Belen so I have to go to Albuquerque," on the part of shoppers, said Peterson.

He also noted that once Del Rio opens there won't be "special pricing structures" on the part of the Del Rio merchants because these companies use

Continued on page 11

ing and pricing schedules le area. The center will be n equal basis to any of the Albuquerque in terms of quantities and pricing

za represents the culmination of 2 years of work on the part n-Watson developers with ants. The center has been ome time, according to ause the growth of the as created a demand on ies that cannot be met. to shop as close to home when you have a lot more ve to have larger stores rchandise. That is what will offer, said Peterson.

Businessmen see strong growth in '77

A sampling of several area businesses indicates that most of them experienced a strong, though often modest, rate of growth during 1976 and that most businessmen expect a continuation of that growth pattern this year.

A number of businesses experienced a record year after coming out of 1975 when a nationwide recession had brought on a general business slump.

Marvin Trembly, of Trembly's Jewelry, sums up what many businessmen said about the Eastern Valencia County area:

"The economy right here in this area is as good as anywhere in the country with the possible exception of some areas where they are having boom town growth. The growth of this area has been strong and steady and I expect it to remain that way through the

coming year."

Trembly's own business, he said, had "the biggest year ever." Part of that he attributed to a new store location but most of his business growth was a "reflection of the general growth of our area."

Richie Tabet, of Tabet Lumber & Concrete Co., also said his business had a "record year."

"We had our biggest volume year ever," Tabet said, "with a growth of about 25 percent. The way things look now it doesn't look like there will be any difference next (this) year. It looks like we're going to continue to grow and we are really looking forward to '77."

Tabet adds that the growth of his business is a combination of both volume and price increases.

Utilities in the area also showed a steady growth pattern with both the Public Service Co. and Gas Company of New Mexico reporting between a 4 and 5 percent growth over the previous year. Telephone hookups were up nearly 10 percent.

Another businessman, Bennie Sanchez of Hub Furniture of Belen, said his business had experienced an "above average" year. He is also a half-owner of Home Furniture in Los Lunas and a member of the board of directors of Ranchers State Bank.

Sanchez says, "1976 was definitely better than 1975 and I expect the economy to continue pretty strong in 1977. My own business was just great. Building is up in the area -- both offices and homes -- and we are getting a lot of that business."

"That is why we (Hub Furniture) added a new showroom on River Road. We expect building in the area to continue to grow for some time."

Hub Furniture began a major sales promotion just after Christmas, Sanchez said, "and our big ticket items are selling well. Usually right after Christmas sales of furniture drops off quite a bit but not this year. We are going stronger than ever and I expect that to continue."

Nino Trujillo, of Nino's Bosque Farms Home Center, agrees: "Building is going real good. People are moving into the area and it's really growing. 1976 was a really good year and I expect 1977 is going to be as good or better."

"I think the state in general is the land of

opportunity and this area proves that," adds Trujillo, who is building a new store in Grants that is scheduled to open Feb. 1.

John C. Johnson, president of the First National Bank of Belen, said he expects to see a "continuation of some growth in the area comparable to last year."

Johnson said he anticipates most of that growth to be in goods and services although he also sees an expansion in the number of businesses.

He says his own bank has shown a "moderate growth in checking accounts and savings." The dollars saved have grown, Johnson adds, although much of that growth rate can be attributed to inflation.

Congress, Johnson said, will promote large

Continued on Page 2

GOP formally takes control

Republicans formally took control of the Valencia County Commission Saturday as Paul Gabaldon took the oath of office giving the Republicans a 2-1 majority.

Gabaldon is expected to be named chairman of the commission. He joins fellow Republican Don McConnell and Democrat Merhage Michael. Michael was commission chairman as the year ended.

Saturday's swearing-in ceremonies were split into two separate ceremonies as a handful of dissident Democrats refused to join the Republicans and a number of their fellow Democrats at the previously announced Saturday afternoon ceremony.

Three Democrats, County Treasurer Sosteno Chavez, County Assessor Gemma Rosselli and State Rep. Fred Luna, were

sworn in Saturday morning by District Court Judge Filo Sedillo. The remaining officials were sworn in four hours later by District Court Judge George Perez.

Continued on Page 2

First baby

Robert and Kelley Gallegos, 1009 W. Chavez, Belen, began the new year with the addition of a baby girl to their family.

Born at 12:48 a.m. Jan. 1, she is believed to be the first addition to the state's population this year.

New commissioners to hold first meeting

All three new county commissioners, Merhage Michael Jr., Paul Gabaldon, and Don McConnell were expected to attend their first official meeting of the new year at 10 a.m., today (Monday) when some of the business required by statute will be transacted.

They will name a commission chairman and vice-chairman, and appoint a member to represent the county on the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments and the Health Council.

The county begins the year with new

insurance coverage.

After a morning of negotiations and discussion at a special meeting Thursday, the commission returned to its meeting and chose two agencies to handle the insurance.

Storey Insurance of Belen will cover the boiler, valuable papers, equipment and property. Mountain States Agency will handle the remainder of the county's insurance.

The total insurance, based on county specifications was \$49,141, but that figure is expected to change depending on workmen's compensation, what is taken off the liability and the audit of employees.

Some of the vehicles now covered are expected to be taken off the inventory because they are inoperable. Some have had engines removed and put in other cars and some are not repairable.

Michael and McConnell met with agency representatives, after recessing the morning session, to hear proposals. Later in the morning, Joseph Fidel, representing Fidel and Moler Insurance Agency, sat with the commissioners and discussed the policy the county now has with his agency. He told commissioners he did not have any figures to present. Michael asked if he would extend the present policy. Fidel said, "Our people will continue coverage. You tell them what you want to delete. Our people were willing to continue this on a year-to-year basis. They want to review it once a year with the county."

Gabaldon expected to be chairman

The Valencia County Commission will hold its first regular meeting of the year today at 10 a.m. with the election of new commission officers the top item on the agenda.

Republican Paul Gabaldon is expected to be named chairman replacing Democrat Merhage Michael, while Don McConnell, also a Republican, is expected to take the vice chairman's position.

Other items on the agenda include an "outline of objectives" of the commission and establishment of guidelines for working hours, vacation accrual and work requirements for

county employees.

Also, a discussion of two proposed subdivisions, a report concerning the Roadrunner Bus Co., establishment of a policy concerning county fund deposits and investments, and the appointment of members and alternates to represent the commission on the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments.

The commission will also ask for public input on what members of the community think the objectives of the commission and the public's requirements are and should be.



but still appeared dazed. At that point the and awarded a TKO to Carrejo. [See re- Photo by Bill Marzulla.

Areas top 10 stories of 1976 reviewed

The top national story of 1976 was the election of Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia as president with the top state story of last year being that of Sen. Joseph Montoya, Democrat, being unseated by newcomer Harrison Schmitt, a Republican.

On the local scene the top area story centered around a special grand jury investigation of county government. That investigation was initiated by state Atty. Gen. Toney Anaya in January and the effects of his and the jury's inquiries were still being felt at year's end.

Four of last year's top 10 local stories, including the top three, grew directly or indirectly out of the special grand jury's activities:

1. Grand Jury. The special grand jury indicted four top county officials, all of whom have now resigned or left office. Those indicted included County Commissioners Frank Sedillo and Billy Joe Chavez, Sheriff Nick P. Sanchez and County Manager Moises Griego. The four were charged with various counts of misusing public monies.

Sedillo and Chavez resigned from office as part of a plea bargain, Sanchez was acquitted of the charges but was then rejected by the voters, and at year's end the charges against

Griego were dropped in favor of civil proceedings, the details of which have still not been released.

All four are Democrats and their indictments undoubtedly had a major effect on the second-ranked story.

2. Republicans Gain. For the first time in over 20 years the Republicans gained control of the county government placing two men on the County Commission, taking the sheriff's office and retaining the county clerk's slot. Only the offices of the county treasurer and assessor and the probate judgeship remained in Democratic hands.

Republicans Paul Gabaldon and Don McConnell were elected to the commission over their Democratic opposition which also retained Commissioner Chavez after the Republicans split over their official nominee and backed a third candidate on a write-in campaign that fell far short of unseating Chavez.

Sheriff Sanchez similarly felt the voter's wrath as he was turned out of office by the voters who said overwhelmingly that they preferred Republican Lawrence Romero. Johnny Torres narrowly retained the county clerk's office for the Republicans by 62 votes but after a recount he gained 11 votes and his

party kept the office first wrested away from the Democrats four years earlier by Pat Heth. Heth herself unseated Democratic Rep. Dick Carbajal to win a trip to the state legislature.

Only popular Democrat Sosteno Chavez, county treasurer, Gemma Roselli, assessor, and Probate Judge Milton Romero kept the Republicans from gaining a clean sweep.

3. Sedillo and Chavez Quit. Just one week after the Nov. 2 general election both Commission Chairman Frank Sedillo and member Billy Joe Chavez quit the commission. Following their resignations criminal charges of misuse of public funds were dropped by the attorney general's office.

In a plea bargain arrangement both men also agreed to pay to the county twice what they were alleged to have taken and to pay a fine on top of that restitution. Sedillo had been defeated in his try for re-election in the June primary but Chavez had just won two more years when he stepped down. Chavez was replaced by Merhage Michael Jr., a Democrat who was appointed by Gov. Jerry Apodaca.

4. Land Practices. Throughout the year the land sales and developments of various land developers throughout the country came

under attack from federal grand juries, the Federal Trade Commission and some state grand juries.

Included in those was Horizon, developers of Rio Communities.

In August state Atty. Gen. Toney Anaya joined the others filing a suit in state district court alleging Horizon was engaged in deceptive and fraudulent land practices. Horizon denied the allegations, pointing out they have brought vast sums of money to the area, and vowed to fight the charges.

5. Metro Squad Dies. In March, following a series of hassles over funding and which governmental entity would control it, the Metro Squad, which was supposed to provide expanded police protection for the eastern end of the county, died, a victim of political infighting.

6. Becker-Dalies Closes. In November a more venerable landmark also came to grips with the times as it was announced that Becker-Dalies, the area's oldest continuous department store, had been sold and would cease operations early this year.

7. Hospital Fund Drive. In January a drive to get \$500,000 in local funds as a contribution towards building a new \$2.3 million 25-bed hospital facility was begun.

In December bids for the hospital's construction were opened but each of the bids was higher than expected. Because of that no bid had been accepted at year's end with Presbyterian Hospital Center, which will own the new facility, studying them to determine whether to re-draw the plans or re-negotiate the bids.

Whichever of those plans is eventually chosen, however, Luis Torres, administrator of Belen General Hospital which will be replaced by the new facility, said, "There is

no doubt a new hospital will be built. Presbyterian Hospital has a commitment to this area that is going to be fulfilled and a new facility will be built."

8. Two Killed. In September Belen residents were saddened by the death of Belen Christian Church Pastor Rev. Carl Mullen and his wife. The two were killed when their car was struck by another vehicle, driven by Army Sgt. Herbert Humbles.

Humbles' car was reportedly doing in excess of 100 mph at the time of the accident. He is expected to face charges of vehicular homicide later this year.

9. Sanchez Acquitted. In October Sheriff Nick P. Sanchez was acquitted of charges that he had embezzled some \$2,000 from the county prisoners' food fund. The acquittal came on a directed verdict from District Court Judge Filo Sedillo, a longtime power in the Valencia County Democratic Party, who granted a defense motion for the directed verdict without letting the case go to the jury.

One month later, however, the voters spoke and Sanchez was defeated in his try for re-election.

10. Howden Quits. In July District Atty. Ted Howden was forced out of office after the State Supreme Court suspended him from the bar for 18 months. He had earlier been tried and acquitted by a Lea County jury on charges of misusing a client's funds. Despite that acquittal, a state bar committee found sufficient impropriety in the way he handled the client's money to recommend he be removed.

The Supreme Court only partially agreed, suspending him for the 18-month period and forcing him to resign the DA's post.

Business

Continued from Page 1

spending plans, meaning a high inflation in sales. That type of spending, however, he said, means that more and more dollars will continue to buy less and less.

A businessman sounding much the same theme was Eddie Peter of Ranchero Builders, who said he expects "the politicians to make things look pretty rosy for the first six months (of this year) but after that look out."

His own business volume grew by about 5 percent last year, Peter said.

George Reed, of Cullins Realty Co., said his firm's 1976 sales were "unbelievable." "We will enter the new year with more than five times the number of sales on our books to be closed compared to a year ago.

Valley land continues to grow in cost, ranging from \$2,000 up to more than \$4,000 an acre in the immediate Belen area, Reed said.

"People all over the world are looking to

the Belen area thanks to the attractive climate, low taxes and promotion efforts of our business people. I see nothing but continued growth here," Reed adds.

Ranchers State Bank President Henry Jaramillo said his "bank's growth has exceeded prior year's increases in all areas and while complete figures are not yet available, it appears that the...bank will report all-time growth in all areas of the bank's operations."

Jaramillo adds that the Belen-Los Lunas area "continues to be dependent on the Albuquerque economy and the diversity of (that) industry is a safeguard."

Jaramillo says that much of what happens in the economy both locally and nationally is dependent on what actions the president and congress take to deal with the double problem of inflation and Recession. "Government spending has a great deal to do with

either fueling or cooling the economy. A tax cut could also have an effect," Jaramillo adds.

Lee Auge, of Auge Sales and Service, said he expects the automobile industry to continue to be strong in 1977. "The past year was the second best in history both locally and nationally. Next year could be even better.

"The area economy should continue to be sound and maintain a steady growth. But there is an economic weakness. We continue to depend on Albuquerque for employment. As a community we have not taken advantage of our position as a bedroom community to Albuquerque.

"We have failed to keep many of our people in our own trade area and we have to work harder on that aspect," Auge says. "The merging of the Belen and Los Lunas newspapers should help to improve the ability of local businesses to reach more people in the area more effectively.

"I think the Belen businesses should be able to reach the people in Los Lunas much more effectively while Los Lunas businessmen can do the same in the Belen area. That has to help both communities."

Trembly said he is beginning to see some of what Auge is talking about. "Almost every day someone will tell me that they no longer go to Albuquerque unless they absolutely have to. They are tired of driving that far just to find that they can't get anyone to wait on them and when they do the service or goods are poor.

"People tell me all the time that they can't get better service than they get here. As more and more people realize that the business of this area just naturally has to improve."

Sworn - in

Continued from Page 1

Commissioner Michael did not participate in either ceremony.

Others sworn in Saturday afternoon included Democratic Dist. Atty. Tom Esquibel and Probate Judge Milton Romero, also a Democrat. They were joined by Republicans Sheriff Lawrence Romero, State Rep. Pat Heth and County Clerk Johnny Torres.

At the morning ceremony Sedillo noted, "The Republicans today naturally have something to celebrate. This is the first time in a quarter of a century that they have held control of the commission."

A Democrat, Sedillo added he expects the Democrats to field a "very strong ticket next year" and that those who are sworn in on Jan. 1, 1979 will be mostly Democrats.

Luna, noting the absence of some of the Democratic office winners, said, "It is a sad situation we have in this county today. Where are the rest of the Democrats in this county? I think it is time we got together as a party so that two years from now this room will be packed."

That ceremony was attended by about 50 people while the afternoon ceremony was conducted before a jam-packed courtroom at the Los Lunas Court House.

Of this sworn in Saturday only Chavez and Romero were returning to offices they had held previously with the others being elected to public office for the first time or moving to another position. Gabaldon had been a commissioner previously but had been defeated for reelection two years ago.



ON A SHOPPING SPREE - Mr. and Mrs. Joe Torres (left) of 411 S. First St., Belen, stopped long enough for a photograph during a \$100 shopping spree at Piggly Wiggly. They won the spree in a raffle co-sponsored by the Adult Basketball League and the store. Also shown is Marcus Gallegos (third from left), a member of the league, and assistant store manager Joe Hill.

LL Council

Continued from Page 1

Grover Hartman of the Environmental Improvement Agency.

The council also voted to hire Henry Cabagua, who is presently employed through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act.

It was announced that the village has received State Clearinghouse Review certification on Phase II of Daniel Fernandez Park and will be notified by the State Planning Office when funds are available. Phase III

will include playground equipment and sprinklers for the Little League Baseball field and will cost about \$35,000.

The council will meet Jan. 10 in regular session and will hold a special meeting with the Los Lunas Planning Commission to review the proposed zoning ordinance. Anyone interested in zoning is urged to attend that special meeting. Both meetings are scheduled at 7:30 p.m.

Sheriff Romero lists staff



Days gone by

Courtesy of the Valencia County
Historical Society

(News items collected from the
News-Bulletin and other nearby news-
papers.)

Oct. 16, 1915

Manuel Sanchez's place near the Santa Fe railroad station in Belen was broken into and clothing, jewelry and anything lose that was found in the house were taken. Another robbery but of a different sort took place Monday night when Frank Didier lost the grapes from about a hundred vines.
Santa Fe New Mexican

Oct. 15, 1940

Glen B. McNay can explain an aerial assault in detail Monday — or point to the windshield of his car as proof. Enroute from El Paso last night, he met a power-diving eagle head-on near Los Lunas. The result was one eliminated aerial attacker and a wind-



Aerial view of Belen, c. 1947.

Photo courtesy of the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts

shield battered out of recognition. Only the inventor of unbreakable glass kept McNay unmarked to tell the story.
Albuquerque Journal

Oct. 25, 1959

Symbol, New Mexico's only law enforcement trained dog, died last week of a liver ailment. The bloodhound's claim to fame was when he smelled out two fugitive slayers near Isleta Pueblo south of Albuquerque in 1954. After that big one, Symbol began having trouble just finding his way back to the kennel. *Santa Fe New Mexican*

Oct. 8, 1970

Sand storms plagued the crew of Firebird Productions trying to film a "chicken pull" at Isleta Pueblo as part of the movie version of N. Scott Momaday's book, "House Made of Dawn." The large crowd of Isleta residents playing spectators at the chicken pull was quiet and cooperative when necessary and appropriately loud and enthusiastic during moments of action.
Albuquerque Journal

The legendary 'tank prank' of 1963

(La Historia del Rio Abajo is a regular column about Valencia County history written by members of the Valencia County Historical Society since 1998.

The author of this month's column is the author of many books about New Mexico history, including "A River Runs Through Us: True Tales of the Rio Abajo," co-edited with John Taylor and available for sale at the Belen Harvey House Museum and the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts.

The author wishes to thank Vern Ashbrook, Jake Garcia, Susie Henington, Pat Fischetti, Dodie Vallejos, LeRoy Vallejos, Ronnie Torres and Jim Sloan for their kind assistance in preparing this article.

Opinions expressed in this and all columns of La Historia del Rio Abajo are the author's only and not necessarily those of the Valencia County Historical Society or any other group or individual.)

There have been many unusual, often funny pranks in Belen history. Old-timers remember daredevils such as Ken Gibson (in 1945) and Dickie Brubaker (in 1957) climbing to the top of Belen's old water tower. Others remember when the principal of Belen's middle school entered his office and found a cow standing in front of his desk.

On another occasion, students pilfered an outhouse and left it by the old red brick schoolhouse's front steps. An empty pine coffin from the Romero Funeral Home mysteriously appeared in front of the Becker-Dalies Store.

But the most famous, still-remembered prank in Belen history occurred in 1963. It will forever be known in the annals of practical jokes as the Belen "tank prank."

A Sunday drive

The tank prank was not planned. It was, in fact, spontaneous.

On Sunday, April 28, 1963, two young men were cruising down Main Street consuming a good deal of alcohol en route. Inevitably, 21-year-old Vern R. Ashbrook and 22-year-old Jake Garcia Jr. needed to make a "pit stop." It was mid afternoon, about 4 p.m.

The friends pulled into the parking lot behind the old National Guard armory building on South Main Street. They soon noticed a 22-ton M-24 tank parked in a fenced-off compound. The two youths climbed the fence and somehow gained access to the tank. Jake, who had experience operating heavy machinery in the construction business, cranked up the vehicle.

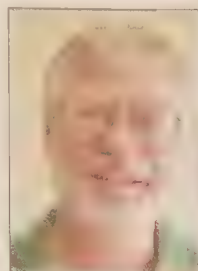
And off they went, first riding around the compound, then crashing through the wire fence and proceeding north on Main.

Many Belenites watched as Vern and Jake drove their illegally procured tank alongside conventional vehicles out for a spin on that beautiful Sunday afternoon. High school sweethearts Rex Henington and Susie Sharp were driving with friends Richie Tabet and Sue Woodall when they spotted the National Guard tank going by.

Susie says she'll never forget seeing the tank with its gun turret spinning around.

"Imagine our total surprise when

la historia
del
rio abajo



Richard
Melzer



Submitted photo

An M-24 tank like the one "borrowed" from Belen's National Guard armory on April 28, 1963.



THE HEADLINE in the News-Bulletin, April 29, 1963

we saw Vern's head popping out of the hatch," Susie remembers. "He was grinning and waving at us. We headed back to town, laughing and wondering how in the world he pulled that off!"

One National Guardsman glanced out his front window and saw the tank rolling down the street. "Thunderstruck," he panicked that he might be missing a scheduled National Guard drill.

Dodie Vallejos remembers sitting outside her house on Camino del Llano and seeing the tank go by. She and her neighbor thought it might be part of a National Guard drill, since they often drove its tanks up Camino del Llano to get to the mesa.

Once on the mesa, the pranksters decided they had gone far enough. They abandoned the tank, retrieved their car from the armory and simply drove home.

Enter the police — and Mr. Ashbrook

Many who saw the meandering tank immediately called the police station and Lt. Col. Richard Gilbert of the National Guard. The Belen police department responded quickly. Finding the abandoned tank on the mesa, the police expressed their amazement that no pedestrians or cars had been hit in the episode. The FBI and state police arrived later, but the authorities did not have to look far to find evidence of who the crime's culprits might be.

Police officers appeared at the home of E. Russell Ashbrook, the 48-year-old principal of Belen High School — and Vern Ashbrook's father. "Mr. Ashbrook," as everyone called him, had served as the high school's principal since 1954. Respected and admired, he was also universally feared by high school students who dreaded being called into his office for infractions, large or small.

Mr. Ashbrook was famous for his stern voice and pointed finger, used to stress the gravity of one's offense. One coed recalls a day when she and



Photo courtesy of Belen Harvey House Museum

MR. E. RUSSELL ASHBROOK, Belen High School principal, 1954-1966. Belen Eagle yearbook, 1959.

her boyfriend ditched school, and she turned herself in at Mr. Ashbrook's office. Despite her willingness to "face the music," she received the same finger wagging as any truant student.

Mr. Ashbrook stressed his points with boys by using his finger to poke them in their chests and even their heads. LeRoy Vallejos remembers being called into Mr. Ashbrook's office after ditching school twice. The first time the principal poked his finger in LeRoy's chest as he spoke. The second time he poked LeRoy between the eyes.

"He had the hardest finger in the world," says LeRoy.

Mr. Ashbrook was even known to resort to corporal punishment in an age when such punishment was still legal and often used in schools.

Mr. Ashbrook's "by the rules" administration knew no exceptions. When the high school's cheerleaders attempted to raise money by having girls pay a dollar for the privilege of

wearing Bermuda (long) shorts to school, Mr. Ashbrook rejected the idea because it was contrary to the school rule against girls wearing pants of any kind on campus.

Mr. Ashbrook made sure that his students knew his values and what he expected of those in his charge. Under the "Principal's Message" of the 1957 yearbook he listed 10 important moral standards:

To do good to others;
To forgive enemies;
To love neighbors;
To restrain passions;
To respect authority;
To honor parents;
To return good for evil;
To cause no anger;
Not to steal;
Not to lie.

Mr. Ashbrook ended his list with the words, "These blessings I want for each of you."

One could only imagine how difficult it was to live up to these admirable, but high standards. Vern says that growing up as the principal's son was much like being the pastor's son. Everyone, especially his parents, expected him to be on his best behavior everywhere and at all times. It was especially hard on a young man like Vern, who, according to neighborhood kids and former classmates, was mischievous by nature.

Vern did the best he could under the circumstances. He played high school football, was chosen as the senior class's favorite boy, graduated from Belen High in 1960 and went on to study at the University of New Mexico.

But he could not resist a good practical joke. The tank prank was only one of his many misadventures. Care to guess who left the empty coffin in front of Becker-Dalies?

Arresting the suspects

Vern was always ready to take responsibility for his actions. When

See Tank, Page 5B

people & places



Deborah Fox

This horsewoman misses the ride

Nice weather is like a wick that draws up memories of being horseback riding around the countryside.

While I was in college, I boarded horses at my little country house on 50 acres. It helped me as a single mom earn a little extra while I went to school full time and work part-time at the school.

At one point, I had a total of eight horses under my care and I must say they all flourished. Most of the boarded horses came to me in poor health — skinny and lack luster — but after about two months at my place, they were sleek and shiny.

God, I love horses. There's just something about them that resonates with the deepest part of me. From the time I was a kid I was enamored with horses.

Luckily, my mother was happy to indulge me. She rode back then, too. She took me to riding stables, where I could take lessons.

Later, when she worked for the airlines and we traveled a lot, we often went places where I would be able to ride, usually Arizona, where I was born. In Scottsdale, I would ride out in the desert by myself and pretend I was Dale Evans from old Western movies. I remember galloping across the desert at full throttle, racing a car that was headed to a group of small trailers set up in a circle like covered wagons.

The thrill of sitting astride a big, muscular doe-eyed equine with the wind in my hair and the landscape rushing past is exhilarating. It made me laugh with the joy of it.

The boarders who kept horses at my place conveniently provided me with riding partners. I never knew when they would be out to check on their horses and it made for many a spontaneous ride, no matter the weather. If it was bitter cold, I wore coveralls and a big, arctic military jacket. Riding in snowfall has a dream-like quality. Sometimes, my horse thought I was nuts, like when a boarder and I decided to take a short ride before a spring storm hit.

I rode a lot with one boarder in particular, Laura, and I'll never forget the moonlit ride we had one midsummer. We started out late in the afternoon, packing cold drinks and sandwiches in our saddlebags and riding west of my place on the dirt roads, just going wherever the mood struck us.

We picnicked under a big cottonwood tree along the ditch that had a thick patch of grass our horses could graze. Then we kept on riding further until the sun started to set.

One of the local ranchers came driving down the road and asked if we wanted him to trailer our horses and take us home, but we said no. We wanted to stay astride as long as we could. Laura was a good riding buddy; she was as adventurous and horse-struck as I am.

It's beautiful riding out in the quiet country under a full moon and a blanket of stars. It's quiet except for the sounds of crickets and other buzzing insects and the occasional domestic sound.

Horses are pretty sure-footed and they know the way home. Of course, we did, too, but we couldn't see the ground very clearly in the moonlight. We rode along leisurely, talking and laughing and enjoying the night. It was one of those moments where you think, "This is what I live for."

For now, my life does not lend itself to owning horses, but if I ever buy another horse, I think it'll be a mustang. They're great endurance horses and not usually very big — a little closer to the ground for this aging horsewoman!

I saw a PBS show about the mustangs rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management for

See People, Page 6B

Comidas

Versatile soy adds variety, boosts nutrition

COURTESY OF FAMILY FEATURES

Whether you're looking to scale back on animal products or simply want to add some variety to your cooking repertoire, soy may be your solution. Soy is the only plant with protein comparable to meat, eggs and dairy, and it provides health benefits, including heart, muscle and bone strength. It is also the only protein recognized by the FDA for its role in reducing cholesterol and risk of heart disease.

If you're uncertain how to cook with soy, you may be surprised by the diverse ways you can incorporate this nutrient-rich food into your meals and snacks. As these recipes show, it's easy to cook with soy throughout the day, from fluffy breakfast pancakes



Lemon Blueberry Pancakes

to a fresh take on hummus or a delicious tofu dinner loaded with flavor.

In addition to the nutrition benefits and versatility, soy uses fewer natural resources, such as water and land, than any other protein source, so you can feel good about making it a star ingredient in your kitchen.

Find more recipes and inspiring ideas for cooking with soy at soyfoods.org.

Surprising Uses for Soy

Looking for creative ways to incorporate more soy into your diet? You may be surprised by all the ways you can build deli-

See Comidas, Page 6B



Submitted photo

A GROUP OF LOCAL residents recently took a two-week cruise from Boston to Quebec City, Canada, and took along their favorite hometown newspaper, the *Valencia County News-Bulletin*. Pictured, from left, top to bottom, are Ardeth and Terry Walker, of Los Lunas, Roselyn and Michael Cordova, of Veguita, Leane and Bob Gurry, of Los Lunas, and Nancy and Dennis Kuhn, of Los Lunas.



Submitted photo

JIM AND IVA TAYLOR, of Los Lunas, were in Roaratan, Honduras, Central America, with a parrot holding the *Valencia County News-Bulletin*.

Religion Notes

Upcoming events

Yard sale at Grace Fellowship

Grace Fellowship in Los Lunas will be holding a yard sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 23, in the front parking lot. There will be clothing and household items available, and a meal will be served with plenty of hospitality.

Father David Gallegos to celebrate 50 years in the priesthood

Father David Gallegos, O.S.M., will be celebrating his 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood of the Friar Servants of Mary. A Mass will be held at noon, Sunday, April 24, at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church, with a reception to follow.



Spaghetti dinner at Peralta Memorial United Methodist Church

Peralta Memorial United Methodist Church will be holding a spaghetti dinner from 5-7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, in the auditorium of the community building. The church is raising money to send several youth to attend camp. For information, call Diana Galey at 350-0919.

First Presbyterian Church of Belen's annual Trash to Treasure sale

The annual Trash to Treasure sale at First Presbyterian Church of Belen will be held on April 29-30. Doors will be open between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, April 29, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 30. This year's sale is loaded with furniture, household items, tools, sports equipment, arts and craft items, kitchenware, linens, electronics, holiday decorations and other treasures just waiting to be found. The sale proceeds are the major source of funding supporting the church's community outreach and mission projects.

Weekend for engaged couples

A weekend for engaged couples is scheduled at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church for Friday, May 13, to Sunday, May 15. Participation is required of all couples preparing for marriage in the parish. Couples must meet with Father Clement before registering for the weekend. Call Deacon Michael or Brenda Montoya at 550-8289.

Ongoing programs

First Baptist Church of Los Lunas

The First Baptist Church of Los Lunas has Bible study at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday for all ages, and 11 a.m. worship and Children's Church. Orchestra practice is held at 4:30 p.m. every Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Los Lunas. Spiritual Growth classes are held at 6 p.m. every Sunday, as well as children and youth programs. Men at the First Baptist Church of Los Lunas are invited for a meeting, coffee, prayer and Bible study at 7 p.m. every Tuesday. Choir practice is held at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday, as well as various ongoing ministries, children and youth programs. Every Friday at 11:30 a.m., the First Baptist Church of Los Lunas holds its Senior Adults for Potluck and Games. For information about any of these programs, go to www.fbcloslunas.org or call 865-7957.

First Baptist Church of BF

The First Baptist Church of Bosque Farms, 1350 Bosque Farms Blvd., has Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. for all ages. Nursery is provided. The Sunday morning worship service is at 10:30 a.m. with "Kids Church" for ages 4 through the sixth grade. The worship choir rehearses at 4 p.m. each Sunday. Both adults and youth are encouraged to join. A ladies Bible study meets at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday. All ages welcome. Child care is available. A men's Bible study meets at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. The Refit Fitness class meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Prayer meetings with in-depth study from the book of Genesis for adults is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. The Rebelution Youth group for grades 7-12 meet at 6 p.m. every Wednesday. Girls in Action, a mission's group for girls in the first through sixth grades, meet at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday during the school year in the gymnasium. The Huddle Youth Ministry meets at 6 p.m. for grades seven through 12th.

Valley Baptist Church

Valley Baptist Church, an independent See Religion, Page 5B

Valencia County Church Directory

Belen

BAHA'I COMMUNITY OF BELEN
For Info or Free Literature
1-800-22UNITE
or write: BAHAI, P.O. Box 663, Belen, NM 87002

CALVARY CHAPEL RIO GRANDE VALLEY
19381 North Hwy 314 • 864-6611 • ccrgv.com
Pastor Ray Jaramillo

7:00 p.m. G-78 Mid-High Girl's Discipleship @Hite Home
TUESDAY: 6:00 a.m. Men's Prayer
7:00 p.m. Ladies Night Out 3rd Tuesday of the month
WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. Bible Study
*Children's Church provided
7:00 p.m. Youth Group
THURSDAY: 9:30 a.m. Women's Prayer
6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Call To Share
FRIDAY: 6:30 p.m. Valor-Young Men's Discipleship
6:30 p.m. A New Thirst (Addiction Recovery)
SUNDAY: Bible Study 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
*Children's Church provided at all services
*11:00 a.m. B-78 Bible Study for 7th and 8th Graders
Spanish Translation @ 11:00 a.m.
Deaf Interpretation @ 8:30 a.m.

BELEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
"We may change but the Gospel stays the same"
421 S. 11th Street, Belen NM 87002 • 505-864-7439
www.belenchurch@aol.com/www.belenchurch.com
Pastor Don DuBerry
Sunday school all ages 9:45 am, Nursery provided
Wednesday eve Bible study 7:00 pm

BELEN UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
12 Sherrod Rd., Belen, NM 87002 • 864-7933
Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday Evening 7 p.m.
Free Home Bibles Study

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP OF BELEN
1928 Fellowship Way
PO Box 634, Belen, NM 87002
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am
Prayer Service Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Pastor John Kennedy
864-2305 or 550-5119
www.nflbelen.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
75 Manzano Expressway
Belen/Rio Communities, 87002
HOME OF WATCH-ME-GROW PRESCHOOL
Murray Baskett, Director

SUNDAY
9:00 a Contemporary-Praise Worship
10:15 a Adult Sunday School
11:00 a Traditional Worship
Children Sunday School or Nursery
(available during Worship times)
5:00—7:00 p Youth Group
WEEKLY: **WEDNESDAY**
5-6 p Puppet Group
6:00 p Family Dinner Reservation Required
6:30-7:00p A Journey through Lent

THURSDAY
5:30-6p Children's Choir
7:00p Chancel Choir
505-864-6095
Keath Baskett, Pastor
YOU HAVE AN OPEN INVITATION TO JOIN US.

CHRISTIAN FAITH CHAPEL
1226 South Main
Belen, NM 87002
505-463-5558
Pastor Rudy M. Espinoza
Church Services:
Sundays 10:00 am
Thursdays 7:00 pm
Children's Church and Nursery Provided
Bible Studies:
Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7:00am
Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 8:00am
cfcbelennm@gmail.com

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BELEN
4th ST & Becker in the Heart of Belen
864-8621 * fbcbelen.net
Senior Pastor: David Guerrero
Worship Pastor: Chris Galacia
Spanish Pastors: Jose Solano & Jose Sosa
Deaf Ministry: Pastor Red and Barbara Flett
Youth Pastor: Cody Landers
Monday & Tuesday: Women's Bible Study
Wednesday: Kids Music and Missions: 6:00pm
Youth: 6:00pm
Bible Study and Prayer: 6:00pm
Adult Choir: 7:00pm
Sunday
Bible Study: 9:15am classes available for all ages
Worship Service: 10:30am
Temple Fitness:
Monday - Tuesday - Thursday: 6:30pm
Saturday: 9:00am
See our calendar for all events at:
www.fbcbelen.net

BELEN CHURCH OF CHRIST
10 Golf Road • 864-8170
P.O. Box 1068 Belen, NM 87002

SERVICES:
SUNDAY: Bible Study-9:30am
Worship-10:30am
WEDNESDAY: Bible Study-6:00pm
PROCLAIMING THE RESURRECTED
JESUS AS KING OF THE WORLD

Rio Communities

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
85 Manzano Expressway in Rio Communities
864-4560
Co-pastors
Rev. Jeff Finch and Rev. Laura Niles Finch
secretary@firstpresbelen.org
3rd Wednesday of the Month
After School Kids 3:30-5:30
Pray service with communion 6:15-6:45
Sunday Services
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour follows, Nursery Provided For Services
Wednesday Choir 7:00 p.m.
Other Activities
Men's Breakfast 7:45 a.m.,
3rd Sunday Monthly
Presbyterian Women 12:00 p.m.,
2nd Wednesday of Month
Book Club 1:00 p.m.,
3rd Thursday Monthly

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER
Pastor Barney Carbajal III
105 Avenida del Fuego • 864-3743
Non-Denominational
Sundays: English Service 10:00 am
Intercessory Prayer 9:30-10:00 am
Wednesday Midweek Service 7pm
Nursery Provided
Free Downloadable MP3 Messages at
www.alcbbelen.org

CORNERSTONE CHURCH
480 Rio Communities Blvd.
A Full Gospel, Bible Believing Church.
Where Jesus Christ, is the
same Yesterday, Today, and Forever.
Worship Service Times
Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.
Come and join us.
Pastor Jim Burdine
Phone 505-934-5849

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
113 La Luna Place • Rio Communities
Church 864-7954 • Vicar - Rev Diane Figue
Adult Bible Study at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Eucharist & Healing Prayer at 10:00 a.m.
Children Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Los Lunas

GRACE FELLOWSHIP
3384 Hwy 47, Los Lunas
We love God. We serve people. We reach the community.
505-865-4722 Fax 865-2051 • www.gracennm.org
Senior Pastor: Clifford Chavez
Worship Pastor: Gary London
Youth Leader: Ana C. Montoya
SUNDAYS: Congregational prayer: 8:30-9:30 AM
CONTEMPORARY PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM
Children's Church / Nursery care / Pre-school program
Deaf Interpretation
WEDNESDAYS: Corporate Prayer: 6:30-7:00 PM
"FORGE" - middle, high school and college age 7:00-8:30
Various Weeknights: Home LIFE groups for youth,
adults & families

FAITH FAMILY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1400 Main St. Suite D, E, F
PO Box 1471
Los Lunas, NM 87031
(East of Applebee's)
505.350.3944
www.faithfamilyloslunas.org
SENIOR PASTOR - ALAN GRANAT
ASSOCIATE PASTOR - ALANNA MCDUFF
Children's Ministry - Christa Storch
Youth Fellowship - Cedrick Rael
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE IS AT 10:45 AM.
We offer Sunday morning services for children of all ages:
Infants ages 6 months-2 years.
Toddlers ages 2-5 years. Children ages 5-12 years.

BIBLE STUDIES
SUNDAY: Open Adult Bible Study 9:45 am at church
(studying Creation)
MONDAY: Women's Bible Study at 7:00 pm at church
(studying The Family of Jesus by Karen Kingsbury)
WEDNESDAY: Open Prayer Time 6:30 pm at church
Open Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm at church (studying 1 & 2 Peter)
Catalyst Youth Group 7:00 pm at church
SATURDAY: Men's Group 9:00 am at church every 1st and
3rd Saturday (studying Bond of Brothers)

SAN CLEMENTE PARISH
244 Luna Ave. Los Lunas, NM 87031 505-865-7385
Pastor: Rev. James Marshall
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm
Sunday: 8:00am (Bilingual) 10:00am, 12:00pm, 5:30pm
Weekday Masses
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 7:00am
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 6:00pm
Saturday Mass at 8:00am at San Antonio Mission on Los
Lentes
(Unless otherwise indicated)
Confessions
½ hour before Mass on weekdays
No confessions on Mondays
3:30pm-5:15pm on Saturdays or by appointment
Teen Confessions 4:45-5:15pm on Sundays

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
400 Huning Ranch West Loop,
Los Lunas, NM 87031
(505)866-1324
The Very Rev. Robert L. Mundy, Vicar
SUNDAY: 8:00 AM Service with Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Service with Holy Eucharist, Music & choir
TUESDAY: 4:00 PM Centering Prayer
5:30 PM Choir Practice
WEDNESDAY: 10:30 AM Service with Holy Eucharist
THURSDAY: 7:00 AM Bilingual Service in Spanish/
English with Holy Eucharist
FRIDAY: 1:00 PM Woman's Bible Study
5:30 PM Service with Holy Eucharist and Unction (lay-
ing on of hands for healing)

VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
3259 Highway 47 Los Lunas, NM 87031 505-865-6169
9:00 a.m. Traditional Services
10:15 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship

TRUE LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH
407 HWY 314 NW
Los Lunas, NM 87031
Ch: 505-865-1681 Cell: 440-8071
Pastor Matthew Wootan
Service Times:
Sunday School 10:00AM
Worship Service 11:00AM
Sunday Night 6:00PM
Wednesday Night 7:00PM
We provide FREE bus transportation on Sunday,
just give us a call.
www.truelightbaptistchurch.org

SAGEBRUSH COMMUNITY CHURCH
1776 Emilio Lopez Road NW
(Los Lunas High School Performing Arts Center)
Los Lunas, NM 87031
Pastor Thomas Kulip: thomask@sagebrush.cc
Sunday Services 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM
We are a full-service location, so ministries
are available for your kids and students.
www.Sagebrush.cc/LosLunas
505-922-9200

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
628 Los Lentes RD NE
Los Lunas, NM 87031
www.christianfellowshiploslunas.org
Retired Senior Pastor: Fred Kerns
Teaching Pastor: Henry Smith
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00AM
Children's Church & Nursery Available
Church Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7:00PM
Non-Denominational
Email: prayer@christianfellowshiploslunas.org

Los Chavez

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOS CHAVEZ
09 Los Chavez Park Road • 865-7701
(Across from Old Mill on Hwy 314)
Boyd Morerod, Pastor
Sunday Schedule:
Sunday School 9:30AM
Morning Worship 10:30AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday Services 7:00PM
Nursery provided for all services

Peralta

PERALTA MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
25 Wesley Road • 865-9334
(1 Mile North of Valencia "Y", off Hwy 47)
Sundays Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Nursery available (0-4) during worship
Sunday School classes for everyone at 9:45 am
Youth Group (6th-12th grades) 6:00-8:00 pm
www.peraltamethodist.org
email: pmumc@qwestoffice.net

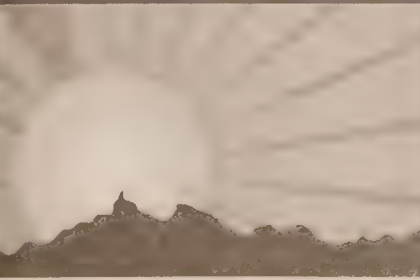
Bosque Farms

CHURCH OF CHRIST
www.bfcfc.org
1635 Bosque Farms Blvd 869-3588
Sunday Morning Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Luncheon 11:45 a.m.
Afternoon Assembly for Worship 12:45 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Studies 6:30 p.m.

"Growing into all that God intends by
Demonstrating the Love of Christ
In our Congregation and our Community"

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600 Dalies Ave. RICHARD BROWER

JOE'S PHARMACY
All Insurance accepted including Tricare
• Religious Items, cards & Gifts
• Flu shots available
3646 Hwy 47 • Peralta
869-3646
M-F 8:30-6:30PM • Sat. 8:30-3PM
CLOSED SUNDAY



DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS

on the Church Page are \$12.09 per issue with a six-month contract. Church listings cost \$5.46. The deadline for Thursday's edition is noon on Fridays. For questions, call Kristin Luna at 505-864-4472, or email kluna@news-bulletin.com



Tank: Pranksters receive suspended sentence for crime

from PAGE 1B

police officers came to the Ashbrook house, Vern admitted his role in the illegal excursion down Main Street.

It didn't take long to find Vern's co-conspirator. Jake recalls that after leaving the scene of the prank, he had prepared to leave town to resume work on a construction project in Gallup.

But Jake was hardly fleeing town. Before leaving for Gallup, Jake casually stopped by a local cafe for dinner. That's where the police found him, still wearing his construction boots. It took only moments to match the tread on Jake's footwear to the footprints found by the abandoned tank.

Jake and Vern were placed under arrest. The friends spent little time in custody before they were bailed out of jail.

News of the tank theft made front-page news, with banner headlines in the *News-Bulletin* of April 29, 1963. The headlines read: "DRIVES HUGE TANK OVER BELEN CITY STREETS." Similar stories appeared in the *Albuquerque Tribune* and the *Albuquerque Journal*.

Consequences

Meanwhile, some Belen High School alumni recall that a regularly-scheduled assembly was held shortly after the tank prank weekend. Although Vern and Jake were no longer students at the high school, everyone waited in anticipation to see if Mr. Ashbrook would mention the incident and offer his opinion of it. Mr. Ashbrook did in fact mention his son's prank at the



Photo courtesy of Jake Garcia

JAKE GARCIA in the Army during the Vietnam era.

assembly, apologizing for Vern's misbehavior and making it clear that he would not tolerate copy-cat pranks or similar misdeeds while he served as principal.

Vern and Jake's case was heard before Judge Paul Larrazolo in the Second Judicial District Court, three weeks after the crime occurred. Filo Sedillo served as the assistant district attorney. In a plea bargain, the young men pleaded guilty to a charge of tampering with government property. Judge Larrazolo gave them six months

to a year suspended sentences and placed them on probation.

They also had to pay restitution for the fence they crashed through at the armory and for the fuel they used in the course of their escapade. Somehow the tank had not suffered any damage.

Thankfully, Vern and Jake's lives of crime were brief. They each joined the Army, although enlistment was not part of the terms of their punishment, as some have thought. Jake served as a Special Forces sniper in the

Vietnam War. He later worked in construction in Saudi Arabia and as an electro mechanical engineer back in the states. Vern became an Army helicopter pilot and flew countless dangerous missions in Vietnam. He retired as a major after 27 years of proud service.

Jake is now retired in Virginia. Vern is retired and lives in Tennessee. Both are still mischievous, at least at home with their families. Referring to his pranks around the house, Jake's "better half," Pat, says, "Not much has changed in all these years." One need only talk to Vern for a few moments to realize that he has lost none of his roguish nature and spunk.

When asked about their youthful indiscretion, Vern and Jake vividly recall their famous prank, although both are surprised that it is still remembered in their old hometown. Now realizing the seriousness of what they did, neither man would like to see their prank repeated in Belen or anywhere else.

Conditions have changed since 1963. DWI's are taken far more seriously, and rightly so, given the countless injuries and deaths caused by inebriated drivers.

But for a brief moment in a far more innocent time, two brash young men commandeered an Army tank for the excitement of a most unusual joyride through their small rural town. Belenites of that generation still smile, shake their heads and reminisce about the pure audacity of that bittersweet distant memory.

Noticias

from PAGE 3B

ments will be holding a swimming competition the Belen High School natatorium beginning at 9 a.m. The swim meet will consist of relays, individual events, diving and a belly-flop contest. There is a \$1 entrance fee and charitable donations are welcome. All charitable donations will go to the charity of the winning team.

FRIDAY, MAY 6
THE GREATER BELEN Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual Tim Lardner Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament at Tierra del Sol Golf Club. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., with a Shotgun Scramble at 1 p.m. The cost is \$125 per team or \$400 for a team of four, which includes golf with a cart, range balls, a sack lunch and a burger bar dinner. To register or to become a sponsor, call the Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce at 864-8091.

CONTINUING
THE BELEN VFW POST 2387 is asking for donations of items for an upcoming yard sale to benefit local veterans. Donations can be dropped off at the post, 211 S. Fifth St., in Belen, between noon and 3 p.m., every Saturday through April 23, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday at Marty's Muffler Shop, 1 Sunset Road in Belen. The yard sale will be held at 8 a.m., April 30, at the VFW Post 2387. For information, call Post Commander Charles Cox at 861-8234.

Religion

from PAGE 2B

Baptist church, at 202 Damon St. in Rio Communities, holds Adult Sunday School at 10 a.m.

Men's and ladies Bible study is held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Prayer meeting and Bible study is held at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays with choir practice following the service.

Calvary Chapel New Harvest in Los Lunas

The Sunrise Prayer Group at Calvary Chapel New Harvest in Los Lunas meets at 6:30 a.m. every Monday.

The Women's Morning Bible Study meets at 9:30 a.m. every Monday.

The Women's Evening Bible

Study meets at 7 p.m. every Monday.

The Sanctified Young Adult Bible Study meets at 7 p.m. every Monday.

The Girl's high school and middles school Bible study meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday.

The Cleaning Ministry meets at 9 a.m. every Wednesday.

The Evening Prayer Group meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday.

The Watchmen's Men's Ministry meeting is at 6 p.m. on the third Friday of each month.

Sharing Hearts Women's Ministry meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month.

Legals

Lake Road, Los Lunas, NM. 87031

This property is located in approximately 1 mile NE of Manzano Expressway and Meadow Lake Road. This property is the first property on the NE side of Meadow Lake Road after the Manzano Expressway. This property falls within District II County Commissioner Alicia Aguilar P&Z Commissioner Michael McCartney

F) Request for CU Home Occupation
Application: CUHO #2016109
Applicant: JK Gunsmithing, LLC, Agent Kent Harvey
Purpose: Gunsmithing services

Legal Description: T7N, R2E, Section 16, Map 68, N.M.P.M.; Subdivision: Mesa Bonita Addition; Lot 11, (0.50 AC); Zoned Rural Residential-2 (RR-2); Filed in Plat Book A, Page 51 in the office of the Valencia County Clerk; also known as 4 Mesa Bonita Place, Los Lunas, NM 87031.

This property is second property on the south side of Mesa Bonita Place which is located off of Don Pasqual Rd. This property falls within District I County Commissioner Helen Cole P&Z Commissioner Frank A. Gurule

7) Discussion

8) Next Meeting
May 24, 2016 @ 3:00 pm

9) Adjournment

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 7, 14 & 21, 2016.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING FOR THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO BE HELD IN SANDOVAL COUNTY

A meeting of the MRGCD Board of Directors is scheduled for **MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the **SANDOVAL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES-COMMISSION CHAMBERS-BUILDING D, 1500 IDALIA ROAD, BERNALILLO, NM 87004.** The agenda for the meeting will include a presentation by Mike Harman, MRGCD CE/CEO regarding the general focus and priorities of the MRGCD, David Gensler, MRGCD Hydrologist regarding the 2016 water supply outlook, MRGCD water operations and irrigation scheduling. There will also be a status update on several projects completed and in-process for Sandoval County/MRGCD Cochiti & Albuquerque Divisions. For questions, please call 505-247-0234. Public is welcome. An agenda of the meeting will be available on Friday, March 25, 2016, by calling our office or on the MRGCD website www.mrgcd.com.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Administrative Secretary at (505) 247-0234 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public

Legals

documents, including the agenda and minutes can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact me at (505) 247-0234 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 21, 2016.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL GENERAL INVITATION

The Village of Los Lunas (Village) is seeking proposals for the purpose of providing a community fireworks display on July 4, 2016 at Daniel Fernandez Memorial Park (1103 HWY 314, Los Lunas, NM 87031). The Fourth of July Celebration is a free event put on for the citizens of Los Lunas, while attracting individuals from all areas of Valencia County.

The service provider should specialize in performing community event type fireworks displays. Prospective service providers will undergo a competitive selection process with the Recreation Division in order to be awarded the contract. The Village will consider the materials submitted by the service provider by taking into consideration their responsiveness, creativity, price and responsibility.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued on April 15, 2016. Interested service providers may obtain a RFP package at the Transportation Center, 101 Courthouse Rd, Los Lunas, NM 87031 or download the document from the Internet on April 15, 2016 at the following address: <http://www.loslunasnm.gov/>

Submit proposals to Mr. Jason A. Duran, Community Services Director, Village of Los Lunas Recreation Division (505) 352-7663. Physical address: 101 Courthouse Rd, Los Lunas, NM. Mailing address: PO Box 1209, Los Lunas, NM 87031. Proposals must be received by **no later than 4:00 PM MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME ON May 6, 2016.** Proposals received after this deadline will not be accepted. A service provider is expected to be selected by Tuesday May 10th, 2016.

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 21 & 28, 2016.

VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS, NEW MEXICO NOTICE OF MEETING, PUBLIC HEARING AND INTENT TO ADOPT ORDINANCE

The Village of Los Lunas, New Mexico, hereby gives notice of a regular Village Council meeting for Thursday, May 5, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Village of Los Lunas Council Chambers, 660 Main St., Los Lunas, NM 87031. At such meeting, the Village Council will consider for adoption the ordinance described below. Complete copies of the proposed ordinance are available for public inspection during the normal and regular business hours of the Village Administrator, Los Lunas, New Mexico.

The title of the Ordinance is:

ORDINANCE #405

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF \$ 4,500,000 VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS, NEW MEXICO GROSS RE-

Legals

CEIPTS TAX IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2016 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING, PURCHASING, IMPROVING AND REHABILITATING LAND FOR GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS SOLELY FROM GROSS RECEIPTS TAX REVENUES RECEIVED BY THE VILLAGE FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND FROM A PORTION OF THE MUNICIPAL GROSS RECEIPTS TAX REVENUES IMPOSED BY THE VILLAGE; ESTABLISHING THE FORM, TERMS, EXECUTION AND OTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND A CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT; AND RATIFYING ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE BONDS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE.

A general summary of the subject matter contained in the ordinance is set forth in the title.

This notice constitutes compliance with § 3-17-3 N.M.S.A. 1978.

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 21, 2016.

The Valencia Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will hold their monthly regular meeting on Monday April 25th, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Whitfield Visitor and Education Center, 2424 Hwy 47, Belen, NM. Public is welcome. For more information, special accommodations to attend, or copy of the Agenda please go to valenciaswdc.org or contact the District office at 864-6460. Agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to the meeting and is updated on the website.

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 21, 2016.

Legals

Legal Notice

All items stored in Unit 69 will be sold or otherwise disposed of under the terms and condition of the Self Service Storage Lien Act 48-11-1 to 48-11-9 NMSA 1978 unless the conditions stated are met.

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 21 & 28, 2016.

LEGAL NOTICE

BELEN BOARD OF EDUCATION BELEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS 520 NORTH MAIN STREET BELEN, NEW MEXICO 87002

The Belen Board of Education is calling for competitive sealed qualifications-based proposals for Ancillary Therapy Services to include; 1) Speech Language, 2) Physical Therapy, 3) Occupational Services to be delivered to the Belen Consolidated School District, Special Education Department, 520 North Main Street, Belen, New Mexico, 87002 by May 4, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Legals

Ancillary Therapy Services #05042016ATS

The Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained at Logsdon Hall, 19676 Hwy. 314, Belen, New Mexico, 87002 or from the Belen Consolidated Schools website at <http://beleneagles.org>.

The Belen Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or cancel this RFP entirely and waive all technicalities. Bids submitted after the deadline,

May 4, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. will be marked **VOID** and will not be considered.

Diane Vallejos, Executive Director, Special Education Dept.

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 21, 2016.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF VALENCIA 13TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF A PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE FOR Alexandria Smith-Switzer, Petitioner

No. D1314CV2016-260

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME

TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with provision of NMSA 1978 Sections 40-8-1 through 40-8-3 the above captioned Petitioner will apply to the Honorable Judge James Lawrence Sanchez, Div.I, District Judge of the 13th Judicial District, Valencia County, New Mexico, at 9:00am on the 23rd day of May, 2016 for an **ORDER FOR CHANGE OF NAME** from: Alexandria Smith-Switzer to Alexandria Harrison.

/s/ Phillip Romero, District Court Clerk

/s/ Janice Garcia, Deputy Court Clerk

Submitted by: /s/ Alexandria Smith-Switzer
Signature of person 14 years or older

Name: Alexandria Smith-Switzer
Address: 411 Vista Dr. SW
Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031
Telephone: 505-859-1407

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 14 & 21, 2016.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF VALENCIA 13TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF A PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE FOR:

1. Maylei Rae Warren, Petitioner
2. Kimberly Anne Warren, Petitioner

No. D1314CV2016-131

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME

TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with provision of NMSA 1978 Sections 40-8-1 through 40-8-3 the above captioned Petitioner(s) will apply to the Honorable Judge James Lawrence Sanchez, Div.I, District Judge of the 13th Judicial District, Valencia County, New Mexico, at 9:00am on the

Legals

23rd day of May, 2016 for an **ORDER FOR CHANGE OF NAME** from:

1. Maylei Rae Warren to Maylei Rae Sanchez
2. Kimberly Anne Warren to Kimberly Anne Larranaga
Further, if this Notice includes a child under the age of 14 years, and both parents/guardians DID NOT sign the Petition for Name Change, service of the Petition for Name Change upon the non-signing parent/guardian was completed on April 11, 2016 and no response was filed.

/s/ Phillip Romero, District Court Clerk

/s/ Kristin Elkins Feldbusch, Deputy Court Clerk

Submitted by: /s/ Kimberly Warren for Maylei Warren
Signature of the parent/guardian for a person under 14 years of age OR signature of person 14 years or older

Name: Kimberly Warren
Address: 98 Lloyd St.
Belen, New Mexico 87002
Telephone: 505-225-0250

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 21 & 28, 2016.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF VALENCIA THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NEW MEXICO MORTGAGE FINANCE AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,

v.

MANDY D. BOLTON, VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. AS THE HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION FOR PASITOS UNIT V, VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC., AS THE HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION FOR RIO DEL ORO, AND THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MANDY D. BOLTON, Defendants.

NO. D-1314-CV-2015-00246

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Special Master will on May 6, 2016 at 10:30 am, outside front entrance of the 13th Judicial District Courthouse, 1835 Highway 314, Los Lunas, NM, sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all the right, title, and interest of the above-named defendants in and to the following described real estate located in said County and State:

Lot 20, Block 13, of Pasitos Unit 5 as said lots are shown and designated on the plat of said Subdivision, filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Valencia County, New Mexico on December 4, 1998 in Plat Cabinet "J" at Page 246.

The address of the real property is 13 Nehemiah Pl, Los Lunas, NM 87031. Plaintiff does not represent or warrant that the stated street address is the street address of the described property; if the street address does not match the legal description, then the property being sold herein is the property more particularly described above, not the property located at the street address; any prospective purchaser at the sale is given notice that it should verify the location and address of

Legals

the property being sold. Said sale will be made pursuant to the judgment entered on February 16, 2016 in the above entitled and numbered cause, which was a suit to foreclose a mortgage held by the above Plaintiff and wherein Plaintiff was adjudged to have a lien against the above-described real estate in the sum of \$55,136.68 plus interest from November 1, 2015 to the date of sale at the rate of 0.000% per annum, the costs of sale, including the Special Master's fee, publication costs, and Plaintiff's costs expended for taxes, insurance, and keeping the property in good repair. Plaintiff has the right to bid at such sale and submit its bid verbally or in writing. The Plaintiff may apply all or any part of its judgment to the purchase price in lieu of cash. At the date and time stated above, the Special Master may postpone the sale to such later date and time as the Special Master may specify.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this sale may be subject to a bankruptcy filing, a pay off, a reinstatement or any other condition that would cause the cancellation of this sale. Further, if any of these conditions exist, at the time of sale, this sale will be null and void, the successful bidder's funds shall be returned, and the Special Master and the mortgagee giving this notice shall not be liable to the successful bidder for any damages.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the real property and improvements concerned with herein will be sold subject to any and all patent reservations, easements, all recorded and unrecorded liens not foreclosed herein, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments and taxes that may be due. Plaintiff and its attorneys disclaim all responsibility for, and the purchaser at the sale takes the property subject to, the valuation of the property by the County Assessor as real or personal property, affixture of any mobile or manufactured home to the land, deactivation of title to a mobile or manufactured home on the property, if any, environmental contamination on the property, if any, and zoning violations concerning the property, if any.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purchaser at such sale shall take title to the above-described real property subject to rights of redemption.

Margaret Lake Special Master
Pro Legal Services, LLC
A01 Eubank Blvd. NE, Suite A3
Albuquerque, NM 87123
(505) 715-3711

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2016.

IN THE PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF VALENCIA STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Joanna Lee Rogers, Deceased.

Probate No. 3748

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of this Estate. All persons having claims against this Estate are re-

Legals

quired to present their claims within two months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned Personal Representative at 2214 Sun Ranch Loop, Los Lunas, NM 87031 or filed with the Valencia County Probate Court, 444 Luna Ave., Los Lunas, NM 87031.
DATED: April 8, 2016

/s/ Gregory A. Baca
Gregory A. Baca
BACA LAW OFFICES
2214 Sun Ranch Loop
Los Lunas, NM 87031
(505) 659-1133

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 21 & 28, 2016.

IN THE PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF VALENCIA STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF William D. Mitchell, Deceased.

Probate No. 3746

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of this Estate. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within two months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned Personal Representative at 2214 Sun Ranch Loop, Los Lunas, NM 87031 or filed with the Valencia County Probate Court, 444 Luna Ave., Los Lunas, NM 87031.
DATED: April 8, 2016.

/s/ Georgia Charlene Mitchell
GEORGIA CHARLENE MITCHELL Personal Representative of the Estate of WILLIAM D. MITCHELL Deceased.

/s/ Gregory Baca
Gregory Baca
BACA LAW OFFICES
2214 Sun Ranch Loop
Los Lunas, NM 87031
(505) 659-1133

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 21 & 28, 2016.

IN THE PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF VALENCIA STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ARTHUR E. STEVENSON, Deceased.

Probate No. 3750

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of this Estate. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within two months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the undersigned Personal Representative at 2214 Sun Ranch Loop, Los Lunas, NM

Legals

87031 or filed with the Valencia County Probate Court, 444 Luna Ave., Los Lunas, NM 87031.
DATED: April 11, 2016.

/s/WALT HALL
WALT HALL Personal Representative of the Estate of ARTHUR E. STEVENSON, Deceased.

/s/ Gregory A. Baca
Gregory A. Baca
BACA LAW OFFICES
2214 Sun Ranch Loop
Los Lunas, NM 87031
(505) 659-1133

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin on April 21 & 28, 2016.

IN THE PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF VALENCIA STATE OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Henry J. Leurck, Deceased.

Probate No. 3747

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of this Estate. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within two months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned Personal Representative at 2214 Sun Ranch Loop, Los Lunas, NM 87031 or filed with the Valencia County Probate Court, 444 Luna Ave., Los Lunas, NM 87031.

DATED: April 8, 2016
/s/ Jovita E. Leurck JOVITA E. LEURCK Personal Representative of the Estate of HENRY J. LEURCK, Deceased.

/s/ Gregory Baca
Gregory Baca
BACA LAW OFFICES
2214 Sun Ranch Loop
Los Lunas, NM 87031
(505) 659-1133

Published in Valencia County News-Bulletin April 21 & 28, 2016.

Pursuant to the New Mexico Storage Lien Act of 1987, Secure Self Storage Inc., 801 Emilio Lopez Rd. NW, Los Lunas, NM 87031 will accept sealed bids April 26, 2016 from 10am to 11am to satisfy Lien on Unit:

K-10 Jamie Benavidez of 1056 Cortez St, Los Lunas, NM 87031.

Comidas

from PAGE 1B

cious snacks and meals around this plant protein:

Tofu: extra-firm replaces meat protein in recipes such as grilled kabobs and sandwiches, or use soft or silken in place of mayonnaise and sour cream in creamy dishes, such as soups and dips.

Edamame: serve these green soybeans in the pod for an appetizer or add to dishes, such as chili or stir-fry, for protein-packed flavor and texture.

Soymilk: ideal for beverages such as smoothies and lattes, over cereal and in cooked dishes, such as puddings or custards.

Dairy alternatives: a wide range of dairy-free products are available, including soy-based "yogurt," "cheese" and

frozen desserts.

Soy crumbles: perfect for chili, spaghetti sauce and tacos, this "veggie ground" contains 75 percent less fat than ground beef.

Soy flour: improves taste and texture and elevates the nutrition profile when mixed with wheat flour.

Lemon Blueberry Pancakes

Recipe courtesy of Silk

Serves: 6

1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon egg replacer

1/4 teaspoon salt

pinch of ground nutmeg

1 1/2 cups plain soy yogurt alternative

1/4 cup vegetable oil, divided

2 tablespoons granulated sugar

1 tablespoon lemon juice

2 teaspoons finely grated lemon zest

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 1/2 cups blueberries, divided

maple syrup

Whisk together flour, baking powder, egg replacer, salt and nutmeg; set aside.

In separate bowl, whisk together yogurt alternative, 2 tablespoons oil, sugar, lemon juice, lemon zest and vanilla; stir into flour mixture until just combined (batter will be lumpy). Let stand for 15 minutes.

Heat large, non-stick skillet over medium heat; brush with remaining oil. Pour 1/4 cup batter per pancake into skillet, leaving space between each pancake.

Add 1 tablespoon blueberries to each pancake.

Cook in batches for about 2 minutes, or until bubbles form on the surface; flip and cook for 1-2 minutes, or until golden brown and set in the center. Wipe skillet between batches. Store prepared pancakes in warm oven until ready to serve.

Serve pancakes with remaining blueberries and maple syrup.

Nutrition information per serving: 260 calories; 6 g protein; 34 g carbohydrate; 2 g dietary fiber; 11 g fat (1 g saturated fat); 0 mg cholesterol; 230 mg sodium.

People

from PAGE 1B

adoption. The BLM is helping a local prison provide rehabilitation to inmates through breaking the feral creatures. Horses are used for all sorts of human therapies — that's another attribute of our connection to these four-legged "Medicine Dogs."

I think the prison would be a good place to start my search for a mustang, but the best way to find a good horse is through local ranchers. A well-broke mustang that some cowboy has been gentling and is ready to sell, that would be my first choice.

HAS SPRING FEVER GOT YOU DIGGING?

CALL 811 BEFORE STARTING YOUR PROJECT.

Keep yourself, your family and your neighbors safe by calling 811 at least two business days before beginning a digging project.

New Mexico Gas Company will come out and mark the location of NMGC gas lines on your property.

Whether you're planting a tree or building a deck, remember to call 811 first. It's the law — and it's free of charge.

Your safety is our business.



PUBLIC NOTICE / NOTICIA PÚBLICA

Discharge Permit Application / Aplicación para Permiso de Descarga: For up to 80,000 gallons per day of domestic septage, wastewater treatment plant sludge, and the aqueous portion of grease trap waste to a land application site / Para un máximo de 80.000 galones por día de residuos sépticos domésticos, lodos de tratamiento de la planta de aguas residuales y la porción líquida de residuos de la trampa de grasas a un sitio para su aplicación al suelo

Applicant & Discharge Location / Solicitante & Sitio de Descarga: Southwest Organics and Compost, LLC, approximately 8 miles west of Los Lunas off of the south side of Hwy 6

For More Information / Para Más Información (DP-1841): Ground Water Quality Bureau / Sección de Calidad Agua Subterránea NM Environment Department / Departamento del Medio Ambiente

(505) 827-2900 www.env.nm.gov/gwb (public notices)

Information in this public notice was provided by the applicants and will be verified by NMED during the permit application review process.

BELEN CHAMBER PAGE: APRIL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER APRIL 2016



Greetings GBCC Members and Friends, Our Chamber is proud to offer once again the Tim Lardner Memorial Scholarship to qualified Belen High or Infinity High School Seniors. Scholarship applications have been mailed to the schools and is available on the belenchamber.com website. They can also be picked up at the Chamber office. Deadline is April 30th and three scholarships will be awarded. We honor, Tim Lardner, our Chamber and Community hero each year for his hard work and dedication to our Chamber and community. The upcoming Tim Lardner Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament is going to be held once again at Tierra Del Sol Golf Club

in Belen. More information on registering a team or sponsorships is included in this newsletter. This Tournament is one of the largest in the county and continues to grow each year. Last year we had 24 teams come out and enjoy the day. Call the Chamber office for more information. We had a great turnout at April Networking luncheon at Carlos Cantina. They each had an opportunity to give a brief summary of the past legislative session. Thank you Representatives Don Tripp, Alonzo Baldonado and Kelly Fajardo for taking time to be there.

I want to thank each of you for your continued support of our Chamber. We are growing because each of you believe in your communities, you invest in your communities, you support the mission of our Chamber. We do not take for granted your support and our Chamber Board and Office Team strive to work diligently to make our communities the best they can be. See you soon. Carl Gallegos BNSF President, GBCC Board of Directors

Membership Renewals

Directory Plus
162 Stewart St.
Durango, CO 81303

New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranch
6209 Hendrix Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Belen Consolidated Schools
520 N. Main Street
Belen, NM 87002

US Bank
620 Reinken Ave.
Belen, NM 87002

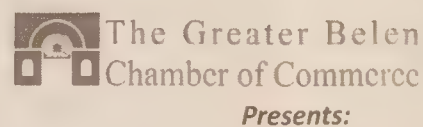
Pete Armstrong Services
401 N. 5th St.
Belen, NM 87002

Rudy and Margaret Sachs
10400 Figaro Dr. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114-3888

Maine-Iy Electric, Inc.
15 Mora Dr.
Belen, NM 87002

Christian Faith Chapel
1226 South Main Street
Belen, NM 87002

Wells Fargo Banks, NM
101 S. Main Street
Belen, NM 87002



The Tim Lardner Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament Friday, May 6th

11:30 am Registration
1:00 pm Shotgun - Scramble
\$125 per person/\$400 team of 4
Includes golf with cart, range balls and sack lunch AND burger bar dinner

April Member of the Month: Rick de Rose Photography



Congratulations to Rick de Rose of Rick de Rose Photography as our April Member of the Month. Rick has been a mainstay in our community for decades and he estimates that he has taken school, sports, dance, gymnastics and other youth photos of probably every

youth in the valley!!! He gives back so much to our community and always with a smile. He is a cherished member of our community and we appreciate his giving back. Call Rick at 505-864-0488 or email at f64@msn.com for your next group event!!!

NEW MEMBERS

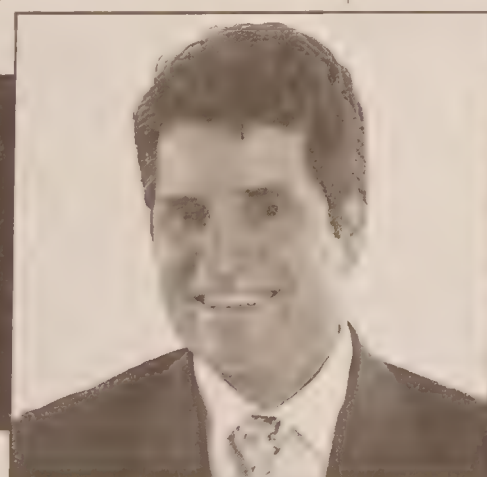
Life 180 Biorhythm Center
Life 180 Biorhythm Center is a unique exercise facility and a 501 ©(3) charity. Come experience the tranquility of completely destressing your body while toning and firming through the use of toning tables. Relax and exercise to the sound of soothing music or visit with family and friends while the tables do the work for you. These unique tables work shoulders, buttocks, inner/outer thighs, waist/lower back and abs. They also increase movement and flexibility all while improving mood and reducing stress. Need more? An elliptical and treadmill are also available. Think you are too old? Our oldest client is 88! Turn your life around with Life 180. First visit Free! We also take SilverSneakers and Prime. Not your thing...donate or sponsor a family member or friend today!! 10% Discount to Chamber Members. Located at 237 N. Main Street in Belen call 505-861-7187 or www.life180bc.org

Headlines 180 Salon
Headlines 180 Salon is a newly renovated full service salon located in the Heart of Belen. Come experience an upscale, yet down to earth environment that will make you feel special in every way. Services provided are: hair coloring, highlights, cuts, perms, nails, pedicures, and manicures. Newly added services are massage therapy (Sweedish, deep tissue, hot stones and foot scrubs.) Hairsytlists: Theresa Baca

and Delora Silva. Massage Therapist: Alicia Crosby. 10% discount with GBCC Membership Card. Call 505-861-71287 or Headlines180.com. Welcome Rose Gould and your two new businesses to our community!!!! Located at 237 N. Main St, in Belen.

Enchanted Smiles
We welcome Deanna Montoya and Enchanted Smiles to our Chamber Family!! Providing General Dentistry services and dental work from fillings, crown and bridge, dentures, cleanings and cosmetic services. Dr. Dan Richey has over 30 years of experience. They accept all insurances such as Delta Dental, United Concordia, Met Life, Aetna, Cigna and many more. 10% off services for GBCC Members. Located at 305 Rio Communities Blvd in Rio Comm. Call 505-864-2978 or facebook.com/enchantedSmilesLLC.

Extreme Fitness
Located at 301 E. Reinken, Belen, they are a group exercise facility offering classes from early morning, mid morning to late afternoon. Classes include: Spin, Circuit, Zumba and RIP. Also offering Personal Training. A \$15.00 off monthly Membership to GBCC members!!! Call 505-864-0208 or www.extremefitnessBelen.com WooHoo!!!!Welcome!



Our Name Has Changed
But Not Our Commitment To Your Needs

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HOMETOWN HISTORY



Our Lady of Belen Fiestas on Main Street



Los Lunas Depot



Gil's Bakery parade entry, 1950.

Valencia County's history is both authentic and celebrated. Our strong sense of place is due to our cultural heritage and can be experienced through our remarkable people, our renowned places and our timeless traditions. This special section, which explores the history of the people and places of Valencia County, will be published annually with different themes each year.

Historical photos have been provided by the late Jim Sloan and BG Burr, Michael Jaramillo, the Valencia County Historical Society, the Belen Harvey House Museum, the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts and Valencia County News-Bulletin files.

VALENCIA
COUNTY

News-Bulletin



OLD BELEN CITY HALL

With its pueblo-style charm and historic significance to the area, the old Belen City Hall, 503 Becker Ave., was formally recognized and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2019.

Having the building on the national registry means it's protected; it can't be torn down, plus it could be a tourist attraction.

Old Belen City Hall was built in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration in the middle of the Great Depression. It was constructed using local labor and adobe made from soil here in the Hub City.

The building was the center of activity for many years. When the doors first opened, the village of Belen administrative offices moved from the first village hall, located about a block west, into the new building.

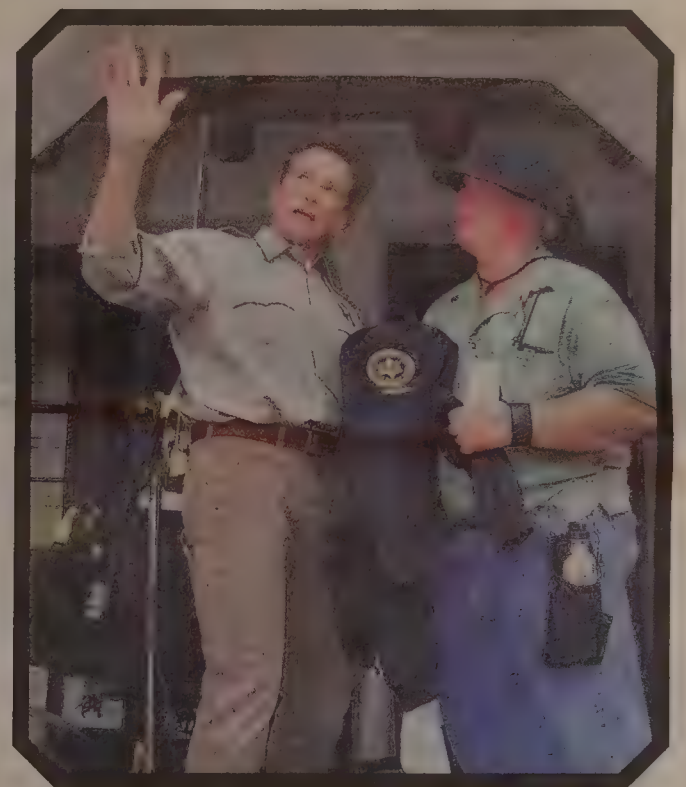
The old Belen City Hall was in use until the city's administrative offices moved into the newer and larger First National Bank of Belen building, located at the corner of Main Street and Becker Avenue, in 1995. The Belen Police Department, along with its holding cells, was the last city department to use the facility and moved out in 1997.

One of the unique features includes its ceiling with its exposed vigas. The old building has been a historic landmark on Becker Avenue for more than 10 decades.

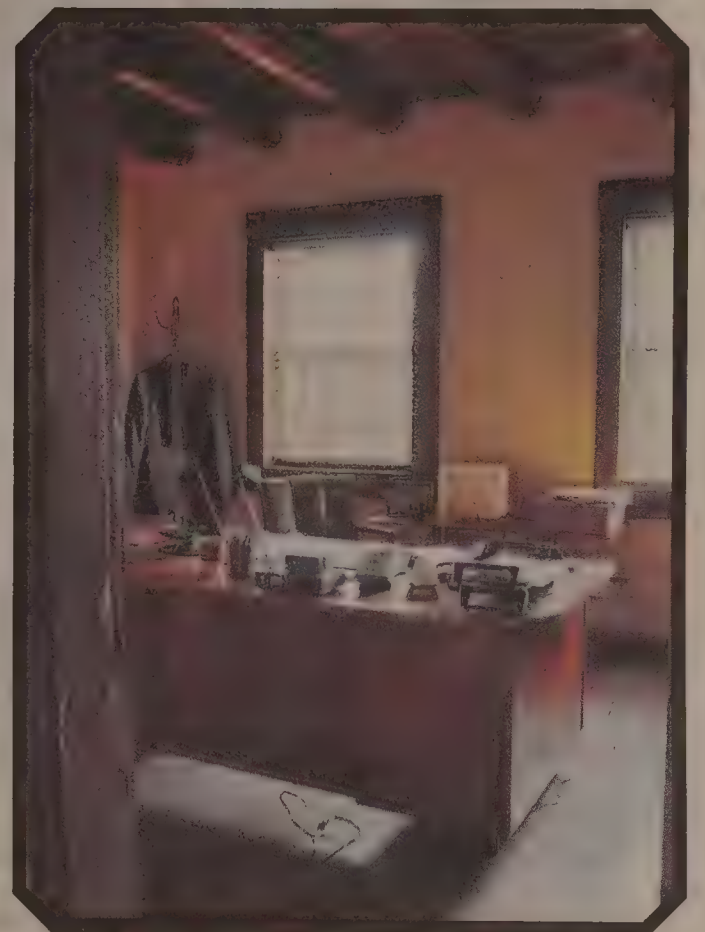
The building was used as the fictional sheriff's office of Sommerton Junction, Ariz., in the 2013 Arnold Schwarzenegger movie, "The Last Stand."

The building is boarded up, and city continues to contemplate its future use.

There is only one other Belen city-owned building — the Belen Harvey House Museum — on the National Register of Historic Places.



Arnold Schwarzenegger played Sheriff Ray Owens in the 2013 movie, "The Last Stand," which was filmed in Belen, and in the old city hall.



JOHN BECKER & CO.

In 1880, the railroad would arrive in Belen, transforming the small community into a bustling town.

The railroad brought people, whether it be unloading temporary visitors for food and sight-seeing or depositing new permanent residents. Belen started to grow and flourish.

Local merchant John Becker, along with Felipe “El Millionario” Chavez was responsible for most of Belen’s early commercial and residential planning, laying it out on a grid. Belen was dubbed “Hub City,” a nickname it still claims today.

New mercantile shops sprung up as did hotels and restaurants and other industry. New Mexico became a state in 1912. Not long after, in 1918, Belen would get its official status as a municipal village.

John Becker outlined his business philosophy in a newspaper advertisement.

“Service is largely a matter of the efficiency of human beings, and no one is infallible.”

“For that reason we ask our patrons to come direct to us when ever our service apparently drops a stitch.

“We like to meet these things face to face with the customer rather than through a third party.”

John Becker owned several businesses, including a mercantile store, a steam-powered flour mill in the center of town and a department store with Paul Dalies — The Becker-Dalies Company — which extended credit, keeping accounts in hand-posted ledger.

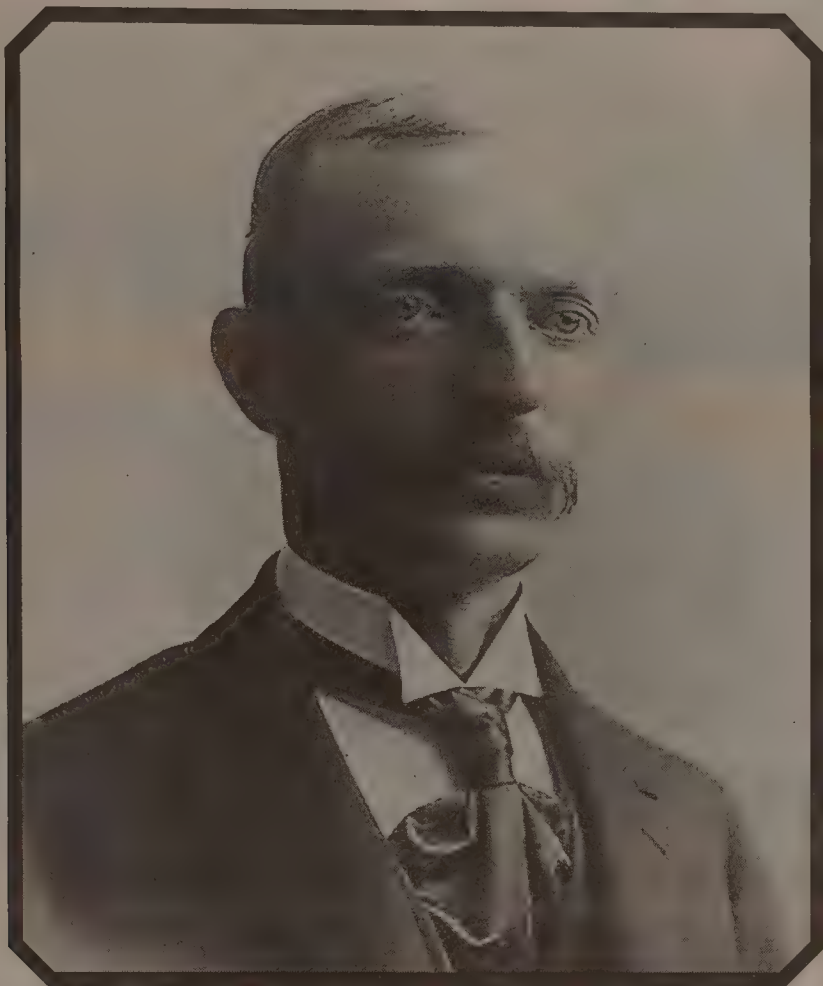
Becker also started the First National Bank of Belen.



John Becker, with his family in the center, and his employees, c.1890.



Becker-Dalies Department Store, circa 1968.



John Becker, pioneer Belen merchant



Anna Becker, wife of John Becker



A couple sitting on a tree stump where Anna Becker Park located in the 1930s. The photo was taken in 1912.

would be

ANNA BECKER PARK

John Becker collected irrigation water runoff from his alfalfa fields into a pond and that later became part of Anna Becker Park, named for his wife, Anna Vielstich Becker.

Becker deeded the land to the town for use as a park in 1927. The labor to develop the park was provided by New Deal agencies, including the Civil Works Administration and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

A monument to Anna Becker is located on the north end of the park.

Today, the 2.8 acre park sits in the middle of town, between Third and Fourth streets, and Reinken and Chavez avenues. It is used by residents and visitors alike. It has a playground, basketball court, a gazebo, numerous picnic tables and more.

Numerous city events are held at Anna Becker Park, including a farmers market, arts and crafts markets and more.

HUNING HERITAGE

Franz and Carl Huning, two of 13 siblings, were born in Melle, Germany, where their father, Johann Frederick Huning, was a well-to-do farmer.

The two brothers emigrated to the United States in 1848 to avoid being drafted into the German army. They eventually came to New Mexico along the Santa Fe Trail.

Ehrhardt Franz, who was a cousin of Belen merchant, John Becker, (and who may also have been a cousin of the Hunings) came to the United States in August 1854, and met Franz Huning in St. Louis in 1859, probably while he was on a buying trip for the store for which he was clerking. Huning suggested to Franz he should move to Los Lunas.

In April 1861, two more Huning brothers, Louis and Henry, arrived in New York and, within a month, joined their brothers in New Mexico, where they gained knowledge and experience in the mercantile industry.

While many think the Hunings started their business in Los Lunas, the first store was purchased in Belen.

In 1865, Louis purchased a mercantile store in Belen from Julius Freudenthal. Ehrhardt Franz had taken Franz Huning's advice, and moved to Los Lunas, purchasing land in the plaza vieja (old plaza — the center of the small village) from Jose Rafael Maestas, an uncle of Don Antonio Jose Luna, the so-called "father of Los Lunas."

In the book, "Years Gone By in the Rio Abajo," by local historians, Richard Melzer and John Taylor, they quote Louis Huning's wife, Herika, as saying, "People (were) all kind and courteous. Principal families were the Lunas, Jaramillo(s), and Romero(s). Wealth consisted of sheep and cattle. Lunas were superior to others. When (I) first came, everyone who visited brought gifts, cigarette cases, jewelry, and silver money. The poor brought fruit."

By 1871, the mercantile competition developed into a mercantile monopoly with the Hunings at the forefront for more than 100 years. The store in Los Lunas was closed in 1990, and is currently a second-hand store called Leftovers.



The L&H Huning Store in Belen. This is the store John Becker managed until he started his own store in 1877. This was the only building in Belen built of stone.



The L&H Huning mercantile store in Los Lunas; 1861-1865 or before.



Built sometime in the mid-1700s, the Huning House may be the oldest continuously occupied building in Los Lunas.



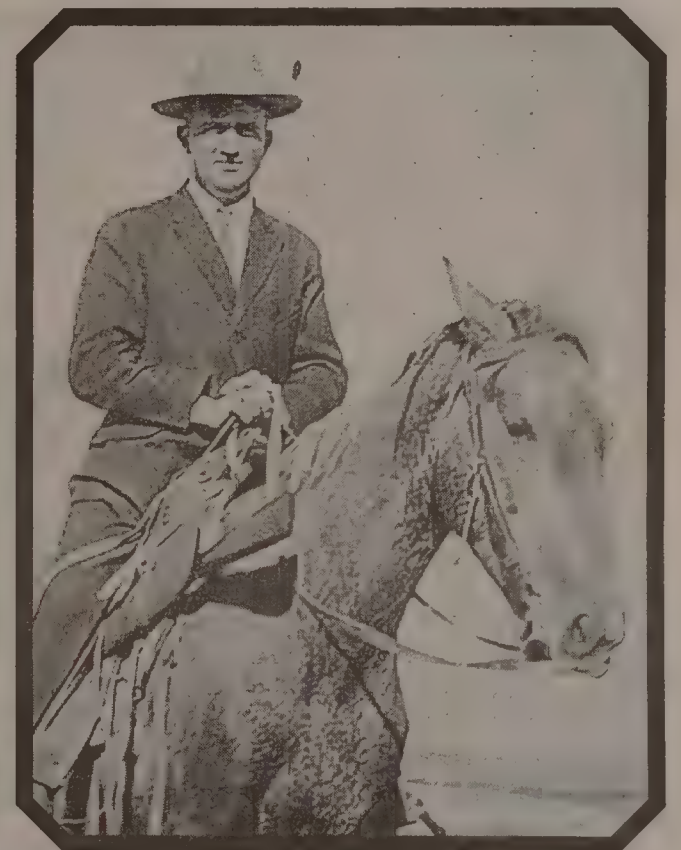
The Huning brothers, Louis, Franz, Carl "Charles" and Henry



Louis Bismark Huning



Henrika Huning



Fred Huning Sr.

HARVEY HOUSE

As one walks through the three-story, mission-styled building known as the Belen Harvey House Museum, a wave of history hits not only your eyes but your spirit as well.

The building has had many uses in its more than 100 years, from a Harvey House with its first-class dining room and lunch-room from 1910 to 1939, to a reading room for railroaders, a space for community and civic events and finally a museum.

Waiting on railroaders as well as train passengers in the early 20th century, the Harvey Girls and staff realized the weary train passengers needed a little comfort and catering.

There were many reasons leading up to the closure of the Harvey House in 1939, such as the Great Depression, World War II, and automobile transportation evolving.

In the 1950s, the building became the Santa Fe Reading Room for railroad employees, serving as a break room and dormitory through the 1970s. The original Reading Room building, south of the Harvey House, was burned in a fire. It was then that the railroad took back control of the building and used it for employees.

When the railroad didn't have use for the building any longer, they boarded it up. It was a group of like-minded Belen citizens who successfully campaigned to save the building in the early 1980s. The Santa Fe Railroad donated it to the city of Belen.

Volunteers began restoring the building and it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in October 1983. The Harvey House reopened two years later as a civic center.

In 2013, the city took over management and continues the museum's mission, and now the Harvey House Museum specializes in Harvey House, railroad and Southwest history.



Harvey Girls posing outside of the Belen Harvey House. ca.1930s.



In the 1950s, the building became the Santa Fe Reading Room for railroad employees, serving as a break room and dormitory.



The Harvey House dining room in the 1920s.

BELEN HARVEY HOUSE MUSEUM

The Belen Harvey House Museum, 104 N. First St., has continuously been voted the Best Tourist Spot in Valencia County by the *News-Bulletin* readers.

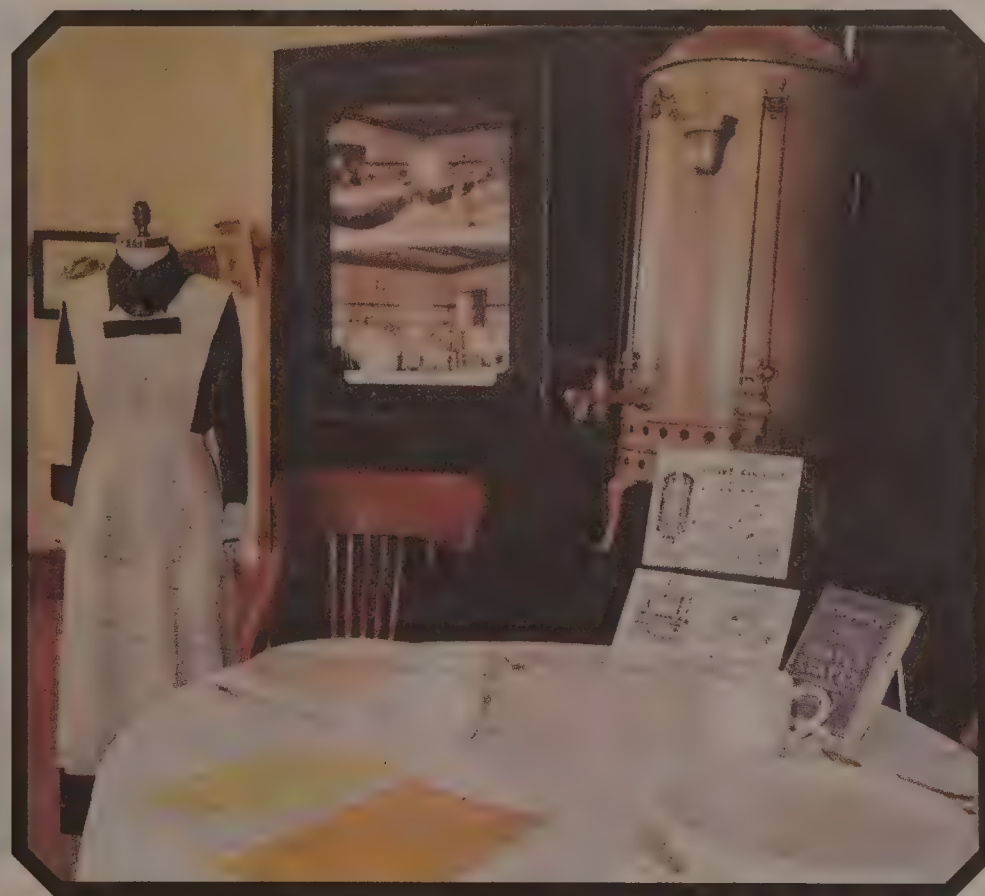
Last month, the museum added a new attraction — The Fred Harvey Whistle Stop Cafe, which is adorned by way of the 1920s, with red and white plaid table clothes, rustic tables and chairs, Pioneer Women tableware and country décor.

Also new to the Belen Harvey House Museum is the Welcome Center.

Both the Whistle Stop Cafe and the Welcome Center at the Belen Harvey House Museum is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday.



Belen Harvey House Museum, c. 2010.



Belen Harvey House Museum display.

THE LUNA MANSION

The Luna Mansion, 110 Main St., Los Lunas, is a unique New Mexican structure which served as the family home for two of the wealthiest and most politically powerful families in Valencia County and the state for nearly 70 years.

The Luna and Otero families came to the New World in the 1690s, creating a foothold in what would become the village of Los Lunas by building their wealth through raising sheep and livestock, and acquiring land.

In 1880, the Santa Fe Railroad asked for right-of-way across their lands for a new rail line, which would destroy the existing family home. The family agreed to sell, so long as the railroad would build a new home for the family, according to their specifications.

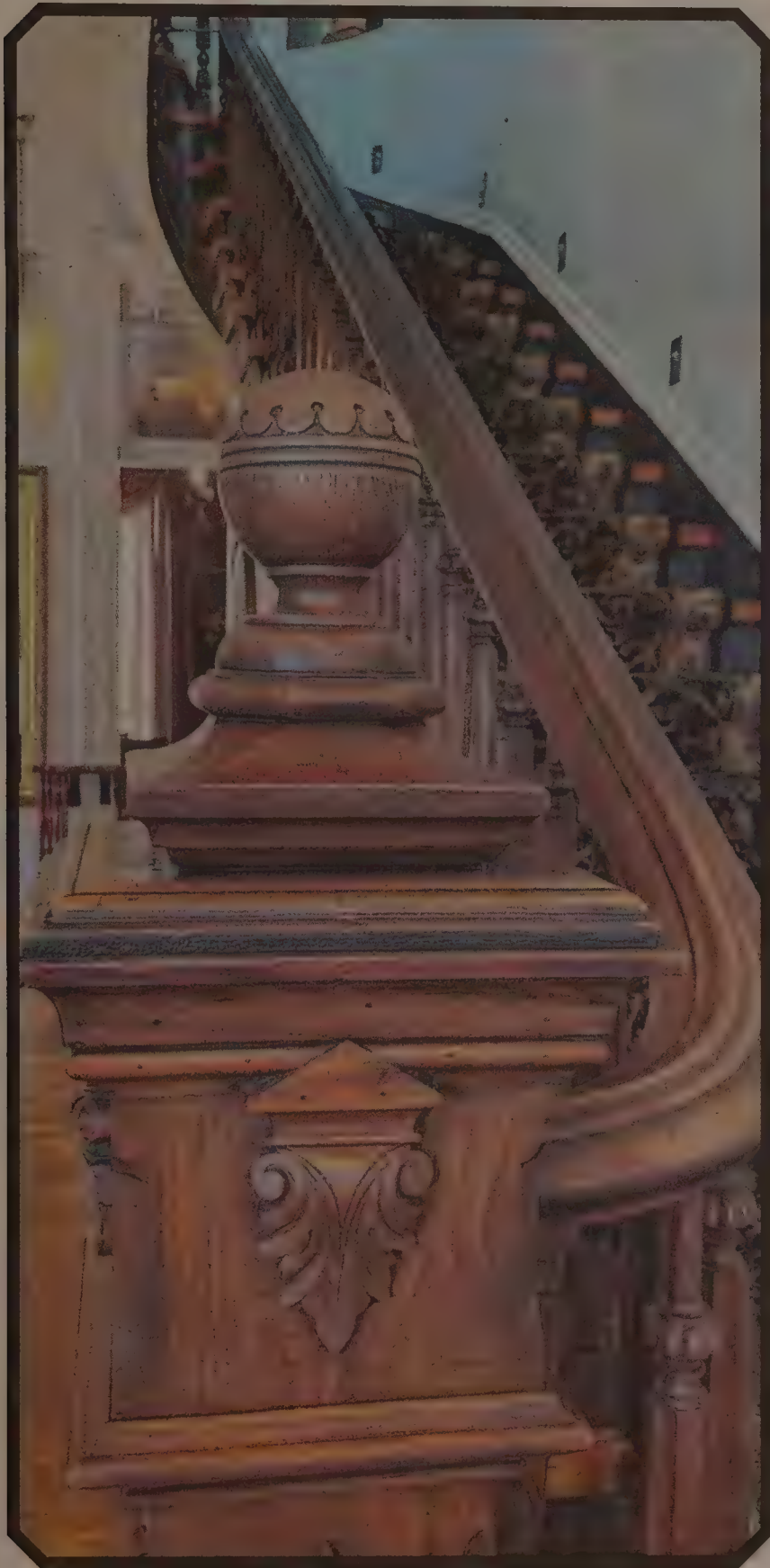
The building, which is two stories and about 10,000 square feet, is made from adobe bricks, many of which are terrones, blocks of sod cut whole from a riverbank or bottom.

The home was passed down through the Luna-Otero family until it was bought by Eunice Sullivan, who was responsible for getting the property on the national and state historic registries in 1975. The stone and iron wall surrounding the property was added to the Most Endangered Places list by the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance in 2009.

In 1976, preservationist Earl Whittemore bought the property, turning it into a fine-dining restaurant in 1978. Whittemore sold the property in January 2009 to Pete and Hortencia Torres, and their three children, Johnnah Torres, Joell Himeur and Peter Torres.

The restaurant continued until June of 2020, when COVID-19 restrictions took their toll on the already struggling business. Johnnah said the family will hold onto the mansion until they can find someone who will continue to protect it and its history.





The stairs up to the second floor of the Luna Mansion features a coffin corner — a low-profile spot in the hand rail that allowed for a coffin to be easily brought up and down the stairs.



The terrone adobe bricks used to build much of the Luna Mansion were cut from the wet banks and riverbed of the nearby Rio Grande.



Josefita Manderfield-Otero holds her one-month-old son, Theodore Roosevelt Armijo Manderfield-Otero.



TOMÉ HILL

Tomé native Edwin Berry decided to make his mark on the community after returning home from World War II. By surviving bullets, bombs and malaria, Berry knew he owed his maker something in return.

In a 1996 *News-Bulletin* interview, Berry said he began feeling depressed, inferior, because he wasn't on the front lines of the fighting.

"But I kept telling God I wanted to at least show my appreciation, my sympathy for those who were face to face with the enemy," he said in the article.

As Berry decided how to best honor his fallen comrades, his mind returned to the cross the penitentes, including his father, put up every year on the top of Tomé Hill until

around 1922, when someone burned it.

"They would put the cross up on Ash Wednesday and leave it up 41 days," Berry told the newspaper. "On Good Friday, the penitentes would sleep on the hill, stay there all day Saturday and on Easter Sunday, take the cross down at dawn while singing. It could be heard across the valley."

Inspired by the devout men who came before him, Berry drew up a plan for the monument he wanted to erect on the hill. The plans called for the monument to face west, set upon an alter 8-feet by 4-feet, with an aluminum finish cross rising 16-feet above the alter.

The total cost of the monument was a mere \$383.

Berry started construction in 1947 and completed the three-cross monument in 1948. His respect and love for the hill didn't end with the completion of the monument.

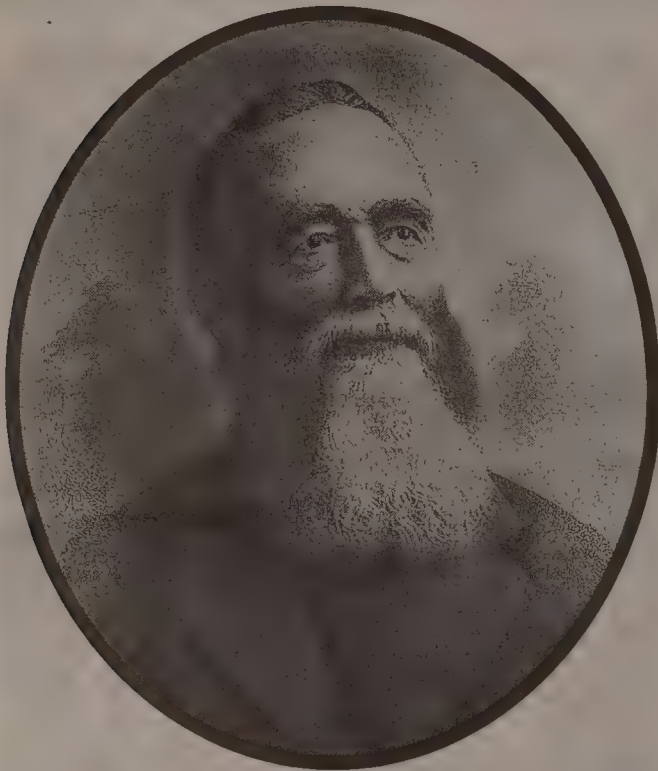
According to his son, Dante, Edwin never missed a year to sing and drum while climbing the hill on Good Friday, making his last trip at 78 years old, just three years before his death in 2000.

Every year, hundreds, if not thousands, of faithful climb to the top of the hill on Good Friday to stand in the shadow of the three crosses, give thanks and take in the sweeping beauty of the valley below.



Edwin Berry





Father Jean Baptist Ralliere, also known as “El Padre Eterno” was born in France in 1830. He came to New Mexico as a deacon, and was ordained as a priest in 1858. He served as pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Tomé until August 1911, three years before his death in 1915.



Col. Jose Francisco Chaves was a 19th century soldier, lawyer and politician. In 1865 he was elected delegate from the New Mexico Territory to the U.S. House of Representatives. He was assassinated in Pinoswells, N.M., on Nov. 26, 1904. He was shot through a window while dining in the home of a friend.



Dolores Elizabeth “Lola” Chavez de Armijo played an important role in bringing attention to gender discrimination. In the year of News Mexico’s statehood in 1912, she became the state librarian, and served for several years.



Spc. Daniel D. Fernandez, of Los Lunas, posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam 1966 for throwing himself on a live grenade, sacrificing his own life to save others. A park, a school and the river bridge in Los Lunas are named for Fernandez.



Adelina “Nina” Otero Warren was born and raised in Los Lunas and was born into two of the most influential families in the county’s history. She went on to be a suffragette, educator and activist. She, along with four other women, is on the tails side of 2022 quarters.



Dr. William Wittwer was a medical doctor who served the Los Lunas area for more than 60 years, often as the only doctor there, until his death at age 93 in 1965. The building where he practiced and lives is now a restaurant, Teofilo’s.



COL. ARTHUR GOEBEL

Col. Arthur Goebel was born in Belen. When America entered World War I, he joined the Infantry at Fort Logan, and served in France at the age of 22 as an instructor, training 1,500 troops. He retired from the California Air National Guard in 1955.

He was the first person to fly a non-stop, 26.5 hour flight, to Hawaii from California. The early airport on the west mesa in Belen was named Goebel Field.

The Woolaroc airplane that Arthur Goebel won from the James D. Dole Pineapple Derby nonstop from California to Hawaii had a 220 horse-power radial right engine with a hooded cockpit. He was also the first man to fly nonstop from Los Angeles to New York, and traveled around the world four times.

The man pictured in the center, at left, is Hollis Wilson. The photo was taken at the Goebel airfield on the west mesa.

Goebel often visited Belen and always received warm receptions.



OLD RIVER ROAD

Dressed in their Sunday attire, families from near and far would gather to picnic together on the banks of the Rio Grande on Old River Road in Belen. In this 1895 photo, the young lads and older gentlemen soaked in the sun while enjoying the day, as the women folk prepared the meal for the families.

MEADOW LAKE

Three-plus decades ago, families and retirees were drawn out to Valencia County's eastern llano with color brochures featuring that glorious New Mexico sunset and a fully-stocked man-made lake, surrounded by trees, cabanas and a lake house.

Now, the lake is gone — 35 acres that used to be an actual lake — the lake that gave the community its name.

The Meadow Lake Parks Area Association now owns and maintains the land, making their community better with lots of activities for the whole family, walking trails, events and interesting resting spots along the way.



*Photo: VC News-Bulletin
Belen Harvey House-Museum archives*

AGUIRRE SERVICE STATION

Climaco Aguirre is pictured in front of his Aguirre Service Station in Los Lunas with his dog, Fifi, in the 1930s. The Valencia County Courthouse can be seen in the background. Aguirre was the superintendent of schools at one point, as well as the first village clerk in Los Lunas. His daughter, Angie, said people would come to him for their licenses, whether it be for weddings, to register their cars or other matters. He would issue these to them right from his gas station. Since the station was directly in front of the courthouse, many politicians would frequent his establishment, where they would discuss matters with him there.



BELEN PARADE

Belen parade in unknown year showing Becker-Dalies float featuring their first delivery truck from 1911 that had been restored by Caldwell Motors. The flour mill, which burned down in the 1950s, can be seen in the background.



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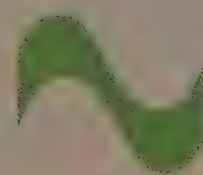
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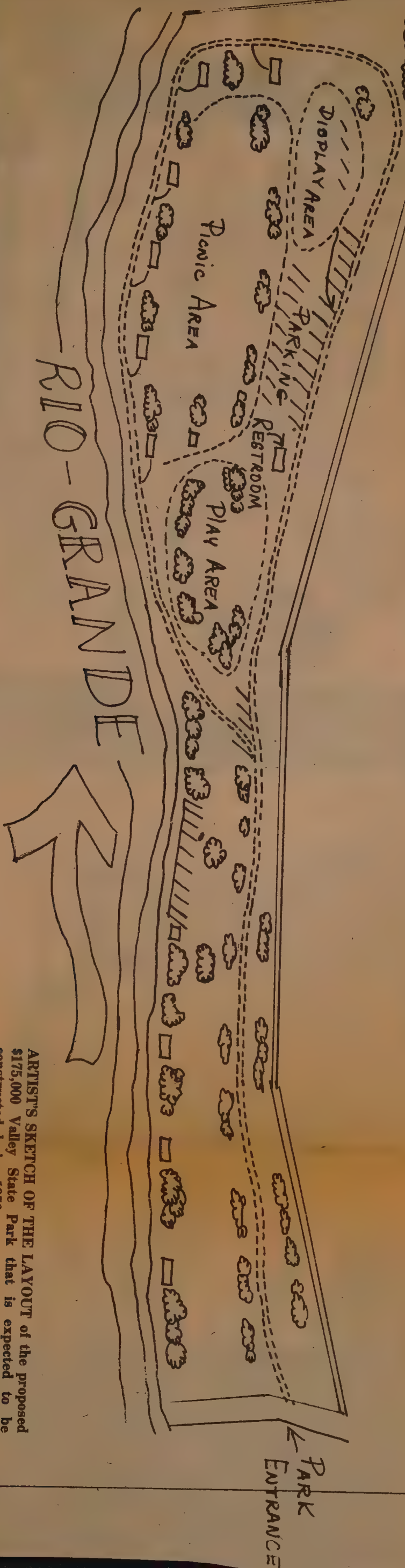
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Belen Valley State Park



ARTIST'S SKETCH OF THE LAYOUT of the proposed \$175,000 Valley State Park that is expected to be constructed during 1976.

Belen Valley State Park 'Completed'

By Donald Sandoval

BELEN—Construction of the Belen Valley State Park has been completed . . . sort of.

Although work at the park on River Road is no longer being done, the park is far from being finished. Therese Ulibarri, who serves as caretaker of

the park, estimates that only one third of the park has been completed.

She said work is at a standstill. The problem—money. She said that when such projects are first planned a survey is taken and a certain amount of money is determined to be needed and that much is appropriated. However, con-

struction on such projects often begins two or three years after the initial planning. In the meantime inflation has eaten away at the initial appropriated figure, rendering it insufficient.

Although not completed, the park is open. It was originally intended to be a day park but the planned picnic tables

and grills never surfaced.

Campers are now allowed in the 'day park.'

Other plans that never materialized at the park are paving work and renovations on the house at the site. The house was to serve as a visitors' center office, and residence for the caretaker.

The jobs that did get done at the park are the installation of restroom facilities, fencing, signs, grading of roadways, a parking lot and trails, a bridge across the ditch and some landscaping.

A state park was first proposed for Belen in 1970. After much planning and discussion, the first date was set for construction start; the fall of 1973.

Originally to be called the South Valley Park, it was planned for a 51-acre lot south of Belen.

The proposed name of the park was soon changed to the Belen State Park.

The first completion date was set for late summer or early fall in 1974. The park was to include an extensive irrigation system, a ball field, plantings and shade trees.

The director of the state Parks and Recreation Commission expressed disapproval over the south Belen site and plans were consequently scrapped.

An acceptable site was finally selected in December, 1975. Riverside Park along River Road was chosen. The \$175,000 Belen Valley State Park was expected to be built during 1976.

A year later, the state Parks and Recreation Department purchased a house and surrounding land from Mary Jo Gardner extending the proposed park to its present size. By this time the cost of the project had grown to \$245,000.

Work on the park finally began in February, 1979. Ground breaking ceremonies were held seven months earlier. At the ceremony Gov. Jerry Apodaca said, "Some day I'd like to come back to this spot and see what a little money and a lot of dedication have achieved."



NEWS-BULLETIN Photo

Paving work is one of the jobs that didn't get done when money ran out on the Belen Valley State Park

project. Although the park is open to the public, it remains essentially unfinished.

Agreement reached on park

The State Parks and Recreation Dept. Friday announced the department and Belen resident Mary Jo Gardner had reached an agreement for the department to purchase land owned by Gardner for the development of a state park.

Purchase price was \$80,000 and includes Gardner's house and approximately five acres of land located off River Road west of the river.

Design work for the park will "begin immediately," said Richard Cooper of the parks department. Actual construction will "begin in late summer or early fall," he added.

Purchase of the Gardner property

"culminates seven years of design work, planning and searching for a suitable site to build the park," Cooper said.

Once the preliminary design work is completed, he said, a public meeting will be called to review and refine the plans.

In addition to the property purchased from Gardner, the parks department will now seek to obtain a long-term lease on the Bosque on both sides of the river from the conservancy district, Cooper said. That area includes approximately 100 acres.

Initial plans call for turning Gardner's house into a park office and a home for the park superintendent. The Gardner property would also serve as the main entrance to the

park area and a parking lot would be placed at the rear of the home.

A pedestrian bridge across the river would be provided with a picnic area built on the east side of the Rio Grande.

There would also be a number of trails built through the bosque, general clean up, a plan for traffic control and access as well as provisions for the "typical utilities associated with a park," Cooper said.

Total cost of the project will be \$245,000 with \$165,000 for design and construction and the remaining \$80,000 for land acquisition, Cooper said. Both state and federal funds are involved.

Serving the Rio Grande Valley from Isleta to La Joya

Monday, May 30, 1977

State Park nearer reality

A proposed State Park for the Belen community appears a step closer to reality.

State Director Sam Graft has advised State Sen. Willie Chavez of Belen that the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy Board and the Corps of Army Engineers have cleared a proposed site south of the Belen river bridge and west of the Rio Grande.

Chavez said the park architect is expected to be in Belen this week to further his work on the proposal.

Chavez quoted Graft as saying the development probably will be completed this summer, on the site of the local river park and south on a 169-acre tract of Conservancy land.

One important development, Chavez noted, was Graft's statement that the State Park Service will maintain the completed park. Earlier, it was suggested that a local sub-division of government, the city or county might be asked to maintain the recreation area.

State park expected to be built 1976

Riverside Park, near the Belen river bridge east of town, probably will be encompassed in a new \$175,000 Valley State Park that is expected to be constructed during 1976, the Bicentennial year.

Only the theme remains to be determined, with input from a special five-member local committee. Historical and cultural lines appear favored over a playground-type local park.

State Sen. Willie Chavez of Belen said the local committee will meet soon to discuss the theme and will then notify Sam Graft, State Parks and Recreation Commission director.

The local input committee was named Monday in Belen at a conference of local state park officials. Named to the committee, besides Senator Chavez, were Mayor Neel Alexander, Tibo J. Chavez, Marion Herlihy, Luis Torres and Richard Gilbert.

Graft was accompanied to the Belen meeting by two aides, John Soper and Margaret Hidalgo, both formerly of Belen.

Three tentative drawings of the proposed park were shown at the meeting. The site would run about a mile in length and up to 500 feet in width, comprising some 97 acres of Conservancy District land, along the west side of the Rio Grande. Entrance would be about the same as the

entrance to the present Riverside Park.

A picnic area, display area, play area, parking and restrooms are suggested on the layout, and there is some consideration being given to overnight camping facilities for visitors. Graft raised the possibility of camping facilities. This was endorsed by Mayor Alexander.

One drawing suggested additional private land west of the drain ditch, which parallels the present park on the west.

The proposed park site is outside the corporate limits of the city of Belen and just west of the Rio Grande.

Graft said the Conservancy had

indicated willingness to make the 97 acres available to the State for a park development, but legal details have not been worked out.

It was indicated that the park, when completed, will be maintained by the state. A full-time park attendant probably would be needed. A special appropriation from the legislature for maintenance would be sought, Senator Chavez said. This is being done at more than half the state parks, Graft said.

The riverside site won out over other proposed locations, including the city land south of town near Pueblitos, and west of town near the water tank.

Thursday, December 18, 1975

State parks unit will hold firm on final Belen offer

The State Park Board voted to hold firm in its final purchase offer of approximately \$80,000 for the proposed site of the Belen Valley State Park at their Thursday evening meeting in Hobbs.

The land, belonging to Mary Jo Gardner, includes several acres at the west end of the Rio Grande bridge and on the south side of

River Road. Negotiations for the land began a year ago in January when the board offered Gardner \$60,650, a sum proposed by the state appraiser.

"The question remaining applies to her relocation costs, but approximately \$80,000 is absolutely our last offer," said State Parks & Recreation administrator Jo Branchley.

Gardner said the board had not yet contacted her Friday morning and she would not comment on the board's final offer.

When will the park become a reality? "We must take action by May 1. If the offer is not accepted by then, we'll have to look at a different concept of design for the park.

"Instead of building permanent facilities within the boundaries of the levy, we'll have to construct movable facilities. The permanent structures were planned for the Gardner property, but without it, we can't construct permanent facilities such as restrooms," Branchley stated.

The completion date was originally set for October of this year. State funds, in the amount of \$304,805, have been allocated for the total expenditure.

Monday, April 18, 1977

Belen park deadline comes and goes

"It came and went," said Richard Cooper of the Parks and Recreation Dept. this week in reference to the May 1 deadline for acceptance or rejection of the department's bid on Mary Jo Gardner's land. The land, located at the west end of the Rio Grande bridge and on the south side of River Road in Belen, was earmarked for the proposed Belen Valley State Park.

"Mrs. Gardner has not signed. We are inequity causes the home owner to pay more taxes than a person who owns 1,500 acres."

Maguire noted that maintenance of the appraisal program was not continued in the Grants area prior to 1977. Roselli said she now has Ralph Abeita, former road superintendent for the western part of the county, working under the CETA program in that area.

Roselli said her department needs more field staff, more travel, more training and good supervision.

waiting to hear on the improvements on her alternate housing," Cooper said.

The State Park Board voted to hold firm in its final purchase offer of approximately \$80,000 in their meeting held last month in Hobbs.

Cooper was unwilling to comment on the status of the park and on the negotiations specifically.

Plans and designs for the park have been announced for the past several years.

FOOD STAMPS

Approximately one out of every five of the food stamp cases surveyed by the New Mexico Food Assistance Division this year, was headed by an individual 65 years of age or older. The average size for these households was 1.85, the average income was \$228 and the average deduction was \$34.

Belen park bid deadline Sunday

"The contract must be signed by Sunday or we will look at different concepts of design," said Richard Cooper of the State Parks & Recreation Dept. this week in reference to the department's final offer to Mary Jo Gardner, Belen, for the proposed site of the Belen Valley State Park.

The land includes several acres at the west end of the Rio Grande bridge and on the south side of River Road.

The State Park Board voted to hold firm in its final purchase offer of approximately \$80,000 in their meeting held April 14 in Hobbs.

Department administrator Jo Branchley stated earlier that permanent structures, such as restrooms, would be scratched from the park's design plan if Gardner refused to sell her property. Temporary structures, Branchley said, would be substituted for permanent structures.

"We're still negotiating," Gardner said Wednesday.

Ground is Broken At Belen Park Site

BELEN—"Some day I'd like to come back to this spot and see what a little money and a lot of dedication have achieved," said Gov. Jerry Apodaca in his speech delivered during groundbreaking ceremonies for the 200-acre Belen State Valley Park held yesterday at the park site.

The State Parks and Recreation Dept. purchased a portion of the site, located on the Rio Grande east of Belen where NM #6 crosses the river, this past May from Mary Jo Gardner for \$80,000. The purchase included Gardner's house and five acres of land situated off River Road west of the river.

Two acres of Gardner's land have been reserved for a visitors center which will be housed in Gardner's home. The remaining three acres of Gardner's land has been reserved for parking and restrooms.

Additional land, acquired by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, stipulates a 5-acre main picnic area, a 5-acre group camping area, a 14,000-foot long pedestrian and bicycle trail, a 10-acre pond and marsh wildlife area, an 85-acre bosque, a 30-acre

river bank featuring native grasses and 60 acres of active river channel.

Completion of the park will require 18 months and construction will begin "very soon, as soon as the plans are finished," said John Soper, public information officer for the state parks agency.

Total cost of the project is \$245,000.

The Rev. Robert E. Whitis, pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Belen, provided the invocation and benediction.

Welcoming the group of approximately 100 state, county and local dignitaries, Belen Mayor Neel Alexander extended his gratitude to the governor for his support and cooperation in making the park a reality.

"This year the legislature gave us stacks of money. It's beyond my comprehension really, the millions of dollars we got for parks," said Mela Koeber, the first woman state park commissioner in New Mexico.

Noting that the Belen Lions, Optimists and Jaycees had tried to construct the park for years, State Sen. Willie Chavez said, "Money problems always stopped us before."

350

\$15,000 more for Belen park

An additional \$15,000 has been appropriated by the recent state legislature for the Belen Valley Park, boosting the total available for development of the proposed park to \$170,000.

State Sen. Willie Chavez noted that the Park Department had \$155,000 available for the Belen park prior to the last legislature season.

Meanwhile, the Park Department is working on plans for the development. Three other sub-divisions of government, the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and the Bureau of Land Management must review the plans.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor
and
Sen. Willie Chavez
Belen.

Dear Senator Chavez:

We, the members of the Sports and Recreation Committee of the Belen Chamber of Commerce, wholeheartedly commend your effort to bring reality to Belen Valley State Park. The definite stand you must position yourself in, is admired by the committee.

After considering all the facets, we agree with the State Parks and Recreation Department that the river front location is the most desirable one in location and historical significance. We are desperately in need of recreational facilities in the Belen area and this installation of a State Park will serve to satisfy the passive type recreational needs for a large segment of our State population and the mass of our people in the urban area. Unless we go the mountains, we don't even have the facilities for something as simple as a picnic, and this State Park will fill this void.

Again, Senator Chavez, we want to let you know the Chamber is endorsing your effort and hopefully it does become a reality in 1976.

Yours for better sports, recreation and sportsmanship.

Sincerely,
Allen Douglas, Chairman
Sports and Recreation Committee

Private Schools Were Introduced in the Early

Separate Schools For Boys and Girls

By W. E. GOEBEL
"Life Was Rugged" —
a continuing chapter

First I want to object to ye Editor deleting some of my copy because it did not meet with his approval or offended his moral senses. What I chronicle here is the absolute truth as witnessed or experienced by me.

Commenting on Mr. Sanchez' article in the May 24th issue. He is, more-or-less correct, but I was speaking on conditions before that time. I remember his father quite well and can recall seeing him with his delivery wagon making his daily rounds of the town with his vegetables.

However, there is one aspect that Mr. Sanchez does not know, and which is generally not known; that was the time when three Nuns arrived in town with the intention of opening the old convent (the adobe building just north of the Catholic Church).

There was no one to greet them at the mid-night train, so they took the bus and came to the only hotel in town then (the old Goebel Hotel); they remained three days and finally gave up and returned to their place of origin, which, I believe, was Santa Fe.

The following day the Priest returned from some place to the south, possibly El Paso. Three

local men made a valiant effort to bring education to the town; they were Saturnino Baca, Federico Baca, and Marcus Baca (no relations).

The latter provided a room in his home for that purpose, which was just to the north of town. Each made a valiant effort, giving his time and energy, but just thru the winter months, since, it seems, that the boys were needed at home the rest of the year. Each morning every boy had a chunk of fire-wood under his arm. There probably were not more than a dozen or so students.

The late Felipe Chavez provided a school for girls some years later in a building towards the south of town; he provided everything, even the teacher's salary. This condition continued until Public Education was inaugurated.

A curious result of this educational effort was that the people learned a more sanitary life and their physical condition became better; their children took on a light complexion, and a lot of the girls are down-right white and pretty. Very seldom, now, that one can find a small girl with her face plastered with "whiting," in an effort to bleach the skin.

Sports — Gallo (pronounced Gayo) was the Sunday sport in those days. A rooster, hence the name, was buried up to his neck in the middle of the road; the players would line-up on one side, each on horse-back, and take turns, riding at full speed, lean down, and try to jerk the rooster from the road; the suc-

cessful "puller" would take off, the rest of the mob would try to overtake him and take the prize from him.

The cruel part of this game was that the rooster was, usually, used as a whip and the flanks of the rider's horse were red with blood; by the time the game was over there wasn't much of the prize worth saving. In later years a bottle of wine was donated in place of the rooster, which caused more excitement. The "puller" would whack the bottle on the horn of his saddle to pop out the cork, take a couple of good swallows and hand the bottle to the nearest rider. The finale to this sort of sport was the time the mob was returning to the center of town, just about east of Raborn's Market. One horse fell and the rest of the mob, not knowing what had happened, rode over the downed man, with the result that he was knocked unconscious, and remained so for some time. That was the last of "Gallo."

Another game was "Pelota," which resembled polo without horses. They had a small ball made of cowhide. The teams would line up in front of the Becker store, possibly twenty or more on a side. The "sticks" were tree limbs with one end bent to the shape, roughly, of a long handed letter J. The game would chase the teams up and down Main St. amid a lot of yelling, sore shins and dust.

Beef — Since there was no ice at that time, the best we could do was to dig out the floor of a spare room, about two or three feet deep, thus the moisture would provide some coolness and meat could be kept for a longer time. However, we ate meat at every meal because of the time limit.

A family would butcher a steer, this was divided up with the others so that there was not too much on hand to spoil for each one.

The natives would make Jerkey of their meats by hanging it, in the open, on a line, thus providing dried beef for themselves, regardless of sanitary conditions.

John Becker used to get car-load lots of lard, fats, and other allied materials in reefer cars. After the cars were unloaded the agent would have one of the boys empty out the pockets, take him by the legs and lower him into the reefer where he would grab a chunk of ice and bring it up. There was no objection to this procedure since the ice would have melted anyway and would have been of no further use, so another day was at hand for ice cream.

(To be continued)

NEWS-BULLETIN, Be

a. N. M., Thursday, August 2, 1962 — Page 5

Days of Belen

Early memories of Belen and Los Lunas

By TED RAYNOR

Festus W. Campbell came to Los Lunas in March 1900 as a pumper for the Santa Fe Railway on a three-month trial basis.

He was a satisfactory employee, and about June 1, Campbell's wife and their two sons arrived from Missouri. DeWitt, the older of the sons, has lived in Eastern Valencia County nearly all his life.

The railroad pumping station was approximately 120 yards south of the present Santa Fe crossing at the intersection of U.S. 85 and New Mexico 6 in Los Lunas. DeWitt Campbell of Peralta said. The pumping station was a rock building with steam boiler providing power to pump water into a red wooden tank at least 14 feet high. Water from the tank flowed by gravity into the tender of the engine when trains stopped to replenish the locomotive's water supply for its steam boiler fired by coal. Campbell's father also pumped at La Joya and Alamillo, riding back and forth on the trains.

Two day and night passenger trains between Albuquerque and El Paso, besides freight trains, served communities along the route. (The one remaining Albuquerque-El Paso passenger train was discontinued a few years ago.)

The Campbells lived in an adobe house about a block due north of the Solomon Luna home in Los Lunas.

What passed for a road then was called the old Camino Real, the ancient highway between Santa Fe and Chihuahua, Mexico. The road was on the east side of the Rio Grande, and later had branches to Los Lunas, Belen and other communities.

A wooden bridge that crossed the Rio Grande northeast of Belen was washed out right after the turn of the century, Campbell said. In

1912 another wooden bridge was built due east of Belen. In the interval between bridges people at Belen crossed the river by boat or ferry.

In October 1900 Festus Campbell was offered a job with the John Becker Company in Belen as corral foreman for the general merchandise store, which had its own milk cows and sheep, and its own freight wagons and teams used for hauling from the railroad station to the store and yards. The store established in 1877 by Becker on Main Street served a wide area in pioneer days. Now for many years the Becker-Dalies Department Store, it is still on the same Main Street site and has continued to serve a large area.

Festus Campbell worked for Becker until 1903 when he became employed as the butcher for the Schwartzman and With Meat Market which was in the present site of the Terry Boucher law office. Two years later, DeWitt Campbell said his father established a dairy east of Belen. The large, two-story white house at the dairy is still standing on Reinken Avenue east of the overpass. Campbell's father built the house for \$3,500. The first floor was adobe, the second was frame plastered with stucco and very fine pieces of rock worked into the stucco. This was called pebble dash. Besides dairy cows, the farm raised vegetables sold in town, had orchards, and fields of alfalfa and other crops for cattle.

Campbell said his father gave up the dairy in 1918 for lack of competent help. DeWitt Campbell was then in the Army.

Between 1900 and 1905 there were only 12 Anglo families in Belen, Campbell said. The families besides Campbell's were Rigney, LeBrun, Dalies, Reinken, Schele, the Beckers,

Craig, Simmons, Byers, Goebel and Vielstich.

Campbell said Rigney and LeBrun were warehouse men for the John Becker Company; Dalies and Reinken salesmen for the company; Schele salesman and clerk for the Fred Scholle Store; Craig installed additional equipment in Becker's Belen flour mill and operated heavy equipment in construction of the bridge across the river on the Belen cutoff; Simmons was bookkeeper for the Becker company; Jacob Vielstich was freight wagon driver for Becker; Byers owned the livery stable; Oscar Goebel owned a smaller store two blocks north of the Becker store; Jacob Sickler was the miller in the flour mill.

Fred Becker, John's brother, worked with the latter at times, directing farm operations and other general work incident to the Becker store, such as the lumber and coal yard, and wool and hide warehouse.

There were 150 Spanish-American families in Belen and immediate vicinity in

1900-05, and Campbell said he knew them all. He rode all around the country and hunted and fished in it.

"If we wanted to go somewhere, we got on a horse and away we would go," Campbell recalled.

As a result of being a curious youth who liked to know people, Campbell has made a large map of Belen as it was in 1905, covering the area from the Jarales Road on the south to the present airport road on the north. The map shows the names of people and their homes, the business places and the streets.

For working the soil, a gardener should get a spading fork (for turning the soil) and a spade (for turning and digging holes). Any deep digging calls for a long-handled pointed shovel. For leveling the turned earth, get an iron rake. A hand trowel is good for setting out small plants.

For cultivating, you will need either a pronged cultivator or a hoe. You can get a combination hoe that has a wide blade on one side, a two-pointed blade on the other.

AT LAST! BELEN HAS A TAXI

**HOURS OF OPERATION
7:30 A.M. TO 2:30 A.M**

**SERVICE BETWEEN 2:30 A.M.
AND 7:30 A.M. BY PREVIOUS
ARRANGEMENT ONLY.**

PHONE 864-4721

(Following is an article on Belen's past, written by Walter Goebel. The News-Bulletin welcomes additional articles on the early days in the Hub City and invites readers to submit them. All articles should be signed.—Editor's Note.)

By Walter Goebel

Life was rugged around the year 1887. Windows were provided with shutters, which were closed every night, not against marauders, but against stray bullets. In those days there were no burglaries or robberies. A little later I shall record the only burglary I can recall.

The Anglo population of Belen consisted of about nine or ten families, mostly immigrant Germans, viz: the John and Fred Becker, Siehler, Vieltich, Scholle, Goebel, families, plus Douglas, Rupert, Speckman, Bruhne, Reinken and Scheele.

WHEN THE children came of school age, a one-room school house was built, which still stands in the rear of Dr. J. A. Rivas' office back yard and is now the home of Ignacio Chavez. School benches, wide enough for two pupils, were locally built and were arranged in rows on either side of the room, about 10 per row, one row for girls and the other for boys. However, there were not enough pupils to occupy the benches doubled up, the only double was when I entered school, I had to double up with my older brother. Tuition was \$1 per pupil per month, this, I presume, was the teacher's salary.

A potbellied wood-burning stove occupied the center of the room, a galvanized bucket and tin dipper provided drinking water, teacher's desk and an organ and two outside toilets completed the ensemble. Incidentally, a tussle for that dinner cost me half of a front tooth. Survivors still in Belen are L. C. Becker, Adolf and Louis H. Becker, Mrs. E. H. Leupold and myself.

The school-house also served as the first Lutheran Church, a bellfry having been added later. Louis H. Becker, his sister, Helen, my brother, Edgar, and myself were the first to be confirmed. THE FIRST teacher was a Miss Pratt, who served one year. She

education came into being.

One Fourth of July we all pitched in and made up lunches for the annual picnic, which was held in a grove on the old river road northeast of town. Only one person was left to watch over the town; that was Jacob Vieltich, but the populace was so peaceful that he wasn't even needed. Food was laid out on a long table, a dance platform was built and the keg of beer was tapped, after which everybody had a good time. Somehow we kids were spared, as the lemonade was made in a galvanized washtub, a practice now frowned upon. Several residents from Los Lunas and Albuquerque always attended. After several years new residents started coming into Belen and the practice was discontinued.

STORE HOUSES were from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The post office was in the Becker store, and a deafmute, of around 18 or 20 years of age, had the job of carrying the mail bag from and to the depot. Somehow he was never molested.

Climate was considerably colder and wetter. Ice up to four inches was not uncommon. Skating was indulged in by us kids, as well as grown folks. John Becker allowed his clerks an hour per day for this purpose. It was a rare thing when we did not have two to four, or more, inches of snow for Christmas, and which stayed on the ground for days. I have seen wagons loaded with wool, or wheat, hub deep in mud, coming from the north and drawn by three or four yokes of oxen. Even one of our first teachers got stuck

in the middle of the road one day while crossing from the Goebel store to the school house and my uncle had to pull her out. Nowadays we find no frost on the window panes.

Ice was, practically, an unknown commodity. There were no refrigerators or ice boxes. About the only ice we had was when the brewery in Albuquerque sent a keg of beer. They always included a 50-pound cake of ice, or, when John Becker got a carload of lard; this was shipped in reefer cars. After the car was unloaded the agent, the late Fred Becker, would take one of us boys by the heels and lower him into the bunker to draw out chunks of ice. That was about the only time that we had ice cream. When John Becker received a shipment of watermelons the agent, invariably, let one slip out of his hands.

MEAT WAS served three times a day, in one form or another, for the reason, as stated above, it had to be used up fast as there was no way of keeping it. One family would butcher a beef, this was cut up and distributed among the others, the next time another family did the butchering.

In those days we children got no allowances, we had to earn it by work or catching mice and rats, 5 cents per mouse and 10 cents per rat. The passenger

want to talk while you cook?



LOOK at these CAR BUYS!

1949 Ford 2-door	\$50
1954 GMC Pickup	\$695
1952 Dodge 2-door	\$295
1953 Ford 4-door Fordomatic	\$695
1951 Buick 1-door	\$795
1955 Ford Customline 4-door, sharp	
1956 Ford Mainliner Heater	
1955 Ford Fairlane	

To Set Belen Planning Program in Motion

The Belen Planning Commission has set Friday, June 9th, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall as a time to discuss the selection of Planning Committees to assist in the development of a comprehensive plan which will now begin in earnest. The members of the Planning Commission are Dr. Jose Rivas, Chairman, Herbert Ellermeyer, Marvin Trembly, Harry Jaramillo, George Greigo, Mrs. Marion Herlyke and Ruperto Tafoya, Jr.

Belen area citizens who are interested in participating in this planning program through committee work or who are in general interested in this planning program are invited to attend present a planning film entitled "Now, for Tomorrow," which il-

lustrates the value of planning and the related possibilities of attracting industrial development to a community. Belen residents who are interested in committee membership should contact any Planning Commission member. Ruperto Tafoya, Jr., who is also the City Clerk, is most readily available at the City Hall.

The planning program for Belen will begin in earnest immediately and is scheduled to be completed by January of 1962. The city plan is being developed by the Planning Consultant which will work with the Planning Commission and local citizens to furnish the framework of the plan and the future goals

Thursday, June 8, 1961 -

To Set Belen

(Continued from Page 1)

the meeting. William D. Toole, Director of Planning, for the firm of Flatow-Moore-Bryan and Fairburn, will be present and will of the community. The Planning and Architectural firm of Flatow-Moore-Bryan and Fairburn is also the firm which designed the new building for the First National Bank of Belen.

The committees which will be formed at this meeting on June 9 will review the work of the Planning Consultant and assist in the development of guide lines for such work, setting of community goals and developing recommendations for Belen's future. The planning program for Belen will include:

1. The preparation of subdivision regulations to cover the incorporated area of Belen and an area three miles from its boundaries.
2. Recommendations regarding specific areas to be annexed by the Town during the next twenty years.
3. The preparation of a zoning ordinance and map to be based upon the final comprehensive

development plan.

4. A study and plan of traffic, transportation and parking needs.
5. A study and plan of public building and recreational needs.
6. Analysis of existing public services and public utilities and a plan for their future development.

7. A final review of the study of the economy, schools and population as prepared by the Bureau of Educational Services and Research of the University of New Mexico.

8. (A public works program which includes review and analysis of school and municipal finances and a capital budget for community improvements over the next five years.

9. A comprehensive development plan based upon the above analysis and complete study of existing land uses in the community.

In addition to the above, excellent new maps of the Town of Belen have recently been prepared under contract to Flatow-Moore-Bryan and Fairburn by Limbaugh Aerial Surveys, Inc., of Albuquerque. These are available in the City Hall for review by local citizens.

The Planning Commission urges that all citizens interested in their future should attend this meeting and, if possible, express an interest in becoming a member of one of the planning committees to be designated at that time.

Montano

7-18-80

LOS LUNAS—Salomon Montano, new county manager, says he does not expect any major changes at this time. "We'll be doing things on a day-to-day basis," he said. "Any big moves always create problems."

Montano, who has been administrative aide and county planner the past two years, was appointed manager Monday by a unanimous vote of the county commission.

He succeeds Sosteno Chavez, long time county government employee, who asked to be assigned to a "lighter work" because of his health and the strain of the job.

A native of Bosque, Montano is a graduate of the University of New Mexico with a BS in meteorology.

He worked for the Extension Service in community development for several years, and was an Albuquerque city fireman for six years.

As for future changes, Montano said they have been looking at a personnel policy but it has never been implemented. "I hope we can come up with something to improve the type of personnel hired by the county," he said. He hopes a merit system will be included to protect jobs when there is a change of administration.

Montano said Chavez would be working in personnel and in the area of planning and subdivision regulations. "I will have to depend on him for a lot of things that are pending and count on his experience," Montano said.

The new county manager's salary is \$17,500.

Chavez had been making \$20,000 a year, but has nearly 30 years in county government. In his new position, he will be earning about \$15,000.

Asked about his experience with budgets and fiscal matters, Montano said his experience with real estate has helped him in that area, as well as his work in helping to prepare budgets for the county solid waste animal control planning and recreation departments.

Asked about plans for the new juvenile detention facility which has been completed Montano said, "I think I'd better familiarize myself with that more before answering. I want to look at the budget and find out what the juvenile probation officer wants to do. It's going to cost quite a bit of money for full time guards.

He said application for the an LEAA grant for the facility will be submitted in the near future.

Montano said he will try to work closely with various agencies, such as Extension, Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration and state agencies. With their help, we can provide better services, he said.

Montano commented about the growth in the county saying that people are moving in from other



MONTANO

counties and other states expecting the same services they had before. "They are paying lower taxes here and demanding services they were getting elsewhere. There's no way we can do it. We try to accomodate everybody, but they are going to have to have patience and work with us to help everybody."

He said counties will have to look to the state legislature for help, noting that the state has a large surplus which could be used to take some of the burden from the counties.

Montano is a member of the State Housing Authority, serving as chairman for District III and is a member of the Border Commission, serving as vice chairman of the industry and commerce committee.

Cable Television Only Five Months Away in Belen

By Gary Herron

BELÉN—Don't look now, but cable television in Belen is only five months away.

That's the expectation of Bill Brooks, partner with Carroll Cunningham in Belen Cablevision, Inc., barring any unforeseen difficulties.

"Equipment delay could have an adverse effect," Brooks said. He added that he didn't anticipate any such problems, however.

The first shipment of cable was received this week, as 5,000 pounds of wire arrived at a storage lot here. The arrival was unexpected, as it came two weeks ahead of time. Actual construction, the stringing of the cable, will commence the third week in August. Additional work, such as the construction of a loading dock, yard remodeling, landscaping and so forth, will soon be underway.

When the first phase is completed this November, Brooks reports that "94 percent of the dwelling units here in Belen will be passed." When it is said that a unit is passed, it means that the cable system has been offered to it. Brooks said that a count had been done, "one-by-one," of the dwelling units within the city limits, so 94 percent would encompass most of the city. This would amount to 1,865 units. Naturally, construction would not

stop there, as Rio Communities would soon receive the cable, and at a later date, Los Chavez would be a good possibility, Brooks said.

With cable television, viewers will no longer be restricted to the offerings of five (currently) stations in Albuquerque—subscribers will then have their choice of 19 channels. This selection will include stations in four major U.S. cities, several sports channels, and a locally-originated community access channel.

Some of the channels will be on 24 hours-a-day. In addition to this large assortment included in the original package, there will be other options.

"There are four different ways to buy it," Brooks explained, depending on how many of the three additional movie channels are purchased.

The four cities providing channels, Atlanta, San Francisco, New York and Chicago, are all termed "super stations," meaning Brooks said, "They have chosen to up-link their programming with satellite."

This satellite is 200 miles above the earth, and its signals will be received at the local facilities via 'earth stations.'

These dish-shaped antenna will be located on the lot leased from the gas company, behind KARS. Brooks owns and manages the local radio station.

The local channel will display data on

the weather, local news and a community happenings with the use of a character generator.

These movie channels, of which there are now five in the country and a sixth on the way, are all lamenting the lack of celluloids.

"There just aren't enough movies," Brooks complained.

"We're contemplating Ted Turner's all-news station," he commented, and also expected to have at least one Spanish channel.

Gala Vision would be another possibility. Gala Vision programs Spanish movies and entertainment.

As a future possibility, don't count out out local sports, although Brooks pointed out that a local telecast of a game with just two cameras would be hard-pressed to compete with a 20-plus camera coverage of a major sporting event that could be on another channel.

November will not only bring the elections, but also cable television to the Belen area.

Not only will the cable system provide the area with additional entertainment, but the station will also mean additional employment.

"When fully-built and turned on, because we'll grow into this, we'll have eight fulltime and some parttime people here," Brooks said.



Staff Photo by Gary Herron

Belen Cablevision co-owner Bill Brooks supervises as Chris Tabet unloads the first shipment of cable Monday

morning. Five spools were delivered, each weighing 1,000 pounds, measuring about .4 mile in length.

Commuters Help Belen-Los Lunas Area Grow

Albuquerque, New Mexico, Wednesday, July 27, 1966

By KATY WOOLSTON
Tribune Staff Writer

Albuquerque's bedroom is growing.

The 20-mile stretch south of Albuquerque on both sides of the Rio Grande is becoming as famed for its commuters as for its fiery politics and chili.

Because so many of the area's residents work in Albuquerque and return at night to sleep in Valencia County, one resident hangs the "bed-

room of Albuquerque" title on it.

Rising Public Service Co. of New Mexico figures on the number of customers and use of electricity underscore the area's growth.

THE FLAVOR of rural living where "kids can grow up as kids should" combined with the sophistications of a big city a few miles away is proving "irresistible," Wayne Badsgard, PSC Belen

Division manager, believes.

The growth runs from south of Belen, a city without parking meters or pawn shops; through pint-size communities with roots deep in history and sunflowers as big as dinner plates; north to Bosque Farms which is ripe for a horse-man's bank with ride-up windows and hitching posts.

Some 26 residential subdivisions and hundreds of homes on private lots have sprung up in the sandwich

between the east-west bounds of the valley in the past five years.

PSC CHARTS show a steady increase since 1955 of about 1,000 people every four years.

At this rate the population will near the 30,000 mark in 1970.

"You buy an acre or five and you have room to breathe without being crammed up against the house next door," Mr. Badsgard said.

"Sure looks good for the long haul," is how Jack Huning describes the growth. Mr. Huning, a New Mexico rancher, is one of many Albuquerqueans who commutes to business in Los Lunas.

His brother Fred, who lives in Los Lunas, is among the many commuting to work in Albuquerque.

BELEN, 32 miles from Albuquerque and with a population of 7,500, is the biggest

city in the area. Next in size is Los Lunas, ten miles closer to Albuquerque.

Both are hoping for more residential growth, perhaps coupled with new light industry.

As the hub of the state's railroad and trucking industries, Belen has depended since 1880 on Santa Fe Railway. About one in every eight workers has a job with the railroad, Badsgard estimates.

More recently, the econom-

ic base has widened with farming, ranching and light industry.

THE 400 new families in the area have triggered more shopping centers, apartments, banks, schools, mortuaries, policemen, a new library, a new cemetery, and widening and lighting of Main Street.

And bright hopes.

At Gil's Dining Rooms

See **COMMUTERS**, Page A-6.

COMMUTERS

Continued from Page One

when the Belen Chamber of Commerce meets, the talk hovers over proposals for paving the rest of the streets, going in with Los Lunas to build an airport, annexing subdivisions, creating an industrial park or welcoming a small animal research clinic.

Henry Jaramillo Jr., president of the new Ranchers State Bank and a fourth-generation Belenite, reports a 25 per cent gain a year in assets since the bank's opening in 1961.

RANCHERS' ASSETS today are more than \$4 million, up a million over last year, he said.

Land prices along the river are about \$2,000 an acre in the developed areas close to Albuquerque and get cheaper as they get farther from Bernalillo County, he said.

Luis Torres tells of his plans for a \$350,000 hospital with 30 beds soon to be built in Belen with new surgical and obstetrical suites and equipment.

Mr. Torres, Chamber of Commerce president, is administrator of the privately owned Belen General Hospital with 22 beds.

HE IS HOPING the new hospital will lure more doctors to the area. Three osteopaths and two medical physicians are on the staff now.

The coming of Interstate 25 with its accesses on each side of Belen is eagerly awaited.

This will cut the driving time from Albuquerque to 25 minutes and entice more people into Valencia County, residents believe.

PSC expects a revenue of \$1.3 million by 1970, compared with \$959,600 expected this year; and a kilowatt hour consumption of 52 million compared with 1966's 39 million.

A SPOKESMAN for Belen's First National Bank has seen a three-per-cent compounded annually economic growth in the area.

"Belen's greatest assets are its people of Spanish heritage," he said. "They are thrifty, honest, hardworking and enjoyable."

In its 63-year history, the bank has had only one robbery. This was in 1904 when, according to ancient newspa-

Deadlock Continues

NEW YORK (UPI)— The Pressmen's Union—the only holdout in the World Journal Tribune newspapers strike — today continued to prevent the newly merged paper from publishing its first issue. More talks were scheduled.

per accounts: "The scoundrels absconded with \$600 in hard cash."

First National will open a Bosque Farms branch soon, its fourth in the area.

THIS WILL be frontier style with hitching posts and a watering trough for horsemen and without usual banker's hours. This one will stay open until 6 p.m. so residents can bank when they arrive home from work in Albuquerque, the spokesman said.

First National thrives on wage earners, he added, and the average account is about \$500.

"Know why I like it here?" asks a Texan who moved to Belen from a big city. "My kids can roam all they want and yet can't get far from someone who knows them and will keep an eye on them."

Success of Belen Planning Depends Upon Desires of Citizens

NEWS-BULLETIN, Belen, N. M., Thursday, Dec. 7, 1961 — Page 3

For a Better Community Here

This article is one of a series on planning. It is furnished by Planning Commission of Belen and published by this newspaper as a public service.

By: R. B. McDonald,
Planning Consultant

The Town of Belen is engaged in preparing a Comprehensive Plan for future growth. Like numerous towns and cities the country over, the growth of Belen has been such that it is necessary to take stock, find out what is existing, determine the amount of growth that has taken place, why and where it is taking place.

By using the many different types of information gathered in the process of preparing a Comprehensive Plan it is possible to determine the amount of probable growth for specific times in the near future, and therefore, the probable population at any given time. Once this figure is obtained the next step in the process of preparing a Comprehensive Plan is to ask questions concerning this probable future growth, such as: Is there enough land within the existing town limits for these additional people or must we annex additional land. If additional annexation is necessary where should we annex and when?

Are our utilities adequate for the present population and what additional facilities will be needed to serve the town in 1965, 1970 and 1980. How will the added population make a living? Will they farm, work for the railroad or live on the growing tourist trade?

These are but a few of the questions that must be asked during the process of preparing a Comprehensive Plan for the town. Gathering information and analyzing it is, however, only parts of the planning process.

The next step in the process is to make a series of assumptions, based on information gathered about the Town and other similar communities. These assumptions are often called projections or "educated guesses." An example of an "educated guess" is the population projection which is one of the basic elements of planning.

If, for example, the population of a given area has risen 2% per year steadily for the past ten years, and no adverse factors are indicated to reverse or accelerate this trend, it would be assumed that the population will continue to rise by 2% per year in the foreseeable future. Thus, the planning for the next 10 to 15 years would be based on this increase and we would plan for an additional 20% of population by 1971. This increase would, of course, affect all of the existing urban facilities and create needs for new ones.

The Comprehensive Plan that the Town of Belen is in the process of preparing includes, in addition to increased facilities, a

plan as to where these facilities should be located, when they should be built, and how (or perhaps if) they can be financed from foreseeable revenues.

Planning is a process that can affect the entire community. The success of the plan depends upon the desire of the citizens for a better community and their willingness to participate in its fulfillment.

MAI

Sout

August 19, 1966

One Solid City From Belen to Bernalillo— That's Forecast as Belen Keeps Growing

By MIKE JETT

Tribune Staff Writer

BELEN — The city of Belen is in the throes of great change.

The Valencia County area "is in the process of switching from rural to urban," said Belen Mayor Carter Waid. "In the foreseeable future, from Belen north to Bernalillo will become one solid urban area."

The Belen-Los Lunas area would benefit greatly from any expansion to the south of Albuquerque. For instance — the proposed Martin Marietta plant, for which the Martin Corp. has leased 11,000 acres south of the Sunport.

Slow Growth Seen

Martin Corp. officials say the plant is months away, but "in the long range, things look real good," Mayor Waid said.

"Right now, I just anticipate slow, steady growth," he said.

And evidence of growth abounds in this city 30-odd miles south of Albuquerque.

Roads Re-Paved

The city is now completing a \$100,000 resurfacing project on city streets and a new paving district has been proposed, Waid said.

The gymnasium for Belen's new \$1 million high school is under construction. Waid said

the new half-million dollar gym will replace the first public school gymnasium built in the state, which is still in use. The old gym was built sometime in the 20's, Waid said.

Also in the offing for the area is a new airport which may be built between Belen and Los Lunas. Two members from Belen and Los Lunas have been appointed to an advisory board to study the feasibility of the air terminal.

Plan Airport

Valencia County has yet to appoint two members of its own, Waid said.

Waid said the airport would serve the entire Valencia County area and the south part of Albuquerque. "The whole area is unserved (by an airport), including south and southwest Albuquerque.

Waid said that he likes to think of Belen as the "bedroom" for the Albuquerque overflow. People who would

work at a place like the proposed Martin plant could get to work just as fast from Belen as from the northeast heights section of Albuquerque, he said.

Transportation Is Key

"Transportation is the whole key," Waid said, "and that is part of the need for the new airport."

Also important to Belen's future is Interstate-25, which when completed, will provide fast, easy access to Albuquerque.

Whether or not the Martin Corp. goes ahead with its plant, any industry would want an airport in the area. "There's always the Sunport," Waid said, "but you can only get so many planes in there."

May Need Bond Issue

A county bond issue would be the only way to finance the new air terminal facilities, Waid said, and such a proposal was turned down by

voters seven or eight years ago.

Waid said the city faces the dilemma of whether to build the terminal in the hopes that it will help attract industry or wait until the industry comes before building.

"Any industry would want an airport," he said.

Junior College

Federal aviation officials said that they would expect the airport to grow greatly and that it would stand a better than normal chance of breaking even, Waid said, although it would probably have to be subsidized to some extent.

Also an item that may be in Belen's future is a junior college similar to the one recently established at Hobbs.

"Something I thought we ought to look into is the feasibility of setting up a junior college," Waid said. "Within 5 to 10 years, we'll be ready for one" and investigation into the possibilities should begin now, he said.

Ease UNM Load

Waid said he feels that a junior college in Belen could help ease the load on the University of New Mexico, whose enrollment is expected to exceed 20,000 in the next few years.

Waid said that with the rising costs of living and higher tuition, many Valencia County youths will not be able to afford living in Albuquerque to attend UNM. A local junior college would be the answer to their problems, he said.

Waid said he does not expect any boom in the near future, but that the area will continue to grow. And from all signs, if there is one thing it is doing — it is growing at a healthy pace.

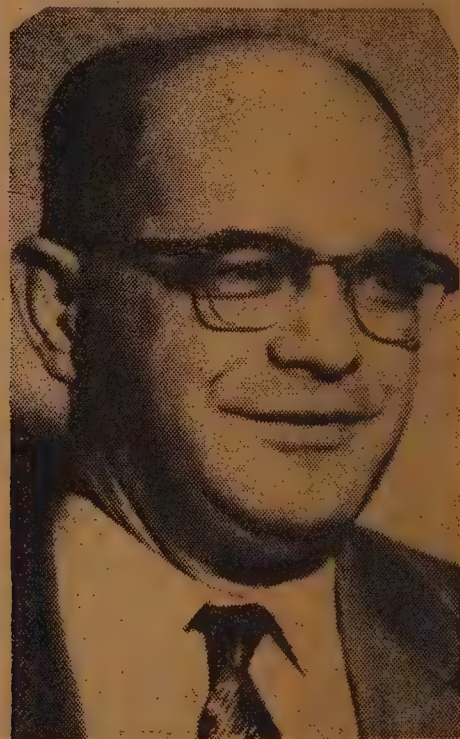
ANNUAL BELEN C. OF C. SPEAKER SAYS:

Belen Has the Natural Resources Which You Can and Should Exploit

Friendly, hospitable and restful — that is Belen, the Hub City of New Mexico.

This was the greeting to some 140 men and women who attended the annual dinner and ladies night program of the Belen Chamber of Commerce held June 22 at Gil's Dining Room.

The guest speaker, Joseph Ruvalo of Albuquerque devoted the



first half of his address to reminiscing on his personal experiences with people of Belen since 1927, and the second half to telling what in his mind "makes a chamber of commerce tick."

He said in part in his remarks on Belen personalities:

"Thirty-four years ago, I fell in love with Belen and its people. Belen is still friendly, hospitable and restful. You have the natural resources which folks like you can and should exploit.

I shall attempt in my address to give you some thoughts, which most of you probably have already discussed, but didn't have the captured audience that I have, and who under the general rules can't talk back.

With your indulgence I'd like to reminisce. I want to apologize at the beginning because I know I am bound to miss mentioning names of many fine people with whom I became acquainted with some 34 years ago.

Yes, in August, 1927, believe it or not I was a curly haired young man selling and servicing Belen grocery stores, and cafes with butter.

I learned to love and admire the folks of this friendly, hos-

Belen Has the Natural Resou

(Continued from Page 1)

pitabile city, their easy going attitude, their sincerity.

Some of my first acquaintances were John Becker and Paul Dalies with Becker-Dalies, a Belen landmark; Paul Feil and Walter Ellermeyer, E. J. Scheele, Carl Halami, Hyman Enderstein, Roy Buckland and Harry Auge. Who would think that later his son, Lee, would be president of this active Belen Chamber of Commerce?

Joe Chavez, a big gruff type of gentleman, but with a heart of gold, Henry Jaramillo, who I thought went into the grocery business so that he could buy groceries at wholesale to feed a large and fine family. But was I wrong — today he operates two of the finest super markets in New Mexico.

Estanislado Garcia, what a great conversationalist he was. Ignacio Aragon, easy going. Richard Castillo, and how he loved to wrestle with me and he generally won.

Mrs. Seery who ran the hotel and every time I came down I met a new member of the Seery family.

In April, 1928, I was chairman on arrangements that chartered a special train to Belen to institute a Knights of Columbus council. I was a conferring officer. Fidel Delgado was the first grand knight. There was Mr. Scheele, secretary for years, Nick Romero, Liberato Gabaldon, Ignacio Baca and Elfego Baca, and it would be impossible to name all whom I came to know and love.

And during the later years such men who have brought distinction to Belen, such as Tibo Chavez, who served as lieutenant governor of New Mexico, now your state senator, and who recently served as a regent on the University of New Mexico board.

Paul Larazola, who served his country well as U.S. attorney. Adelino Sanchez, then a school teacher and now a banker. Charlie Seery, the Tabet boys, Gillie

Sanchez, your son, oh, I could

The speaker humorous stor ing into the his talk on wh ber of comm

This one, he Sedillo, who fishing in Yel park. He caught biggest he ha ever seen, so I 'I've got one and it is a be he got was: 'S 10 pounds, no like you, come

Austin Lov planter at one ing the herea his Negro serv 'Sambo,' said die first, I'll cc you what it is I 'Dat suits me the old Negro fust, ah want me dat yo'll

daytime.

Inquiries About Belen Still Deluge Chamber

Inquiries About . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

will be taken in 16 additional metropolitan city newspapers to tell the story of New Mexico's wonderful climate and the romantic charm of the Rio Grande Valley, the Chamber of Commerce was advised.

Most inquiries have come from Michigan, with 21 persons making inquiries about Rio Grande Estates and climatic conditions in particular. Minnesota and Louisiana are tied with 20 inquiries. Washington, D. C. is third with 18 letters asking for more information. Iowa and

Massachusetts each had 17 letters wanting to know more about New Mexico's climate.

The number of letters from other states were as follows:

Alabama 1; Florida 3; Georgia 9; Idaho 3; Illinois 2; Maryland 10; Missouri 7; Nebraska 2; New Jersey 10; North Dakota 5; Texas 5; Utah 8; Virginia 10; Wisconsin 1, and Wyoming 1.

With Tuesday's total of 31 letters, this makes a grand total of 385 persons responding to the advertising in three days mail.

The large national newspaper advertising campaign in selected metropolitan dailies with Belen featured as a future homesite for retired people or a western vacation home has registered more heavily than any similar campaign in Florida, Arizona, Texas or New Mexico.

This statement was made by Joseph Tyeman of Tucson, Ariz., president of the Horizon Land Corp., whose subsidiary, Alameda Land Corp., is making plans to develop Rio Grande Estates, east of Belen, for homesites.

"We have never had the response with our other advertised developments that we have had with Rio Grande Estates," he is quoted as telling the Belen Chamber of Commerce.

The number of letters of inquiry rose to 226 on Thursday, compared to 128 letters on Wednesday, in response to the advertisements placed in 20 selected metropolitan dailies on Sunday, Jan. 8. This is in addition to letters directed to the Chamber of Commerce and the Belen News-Bulletin.

An official of the company, possibly Martin Ginsburg, vice president, will come to Belen shortly with an officer of the Roberson Construction Co., Inc. of Albuquerque to select a site for the model home at Rio Grande Estates.

Belen will get another big publicity play on Sunday, Jan. 15, when large advertising space

(Continued on page 8)

The Tribune's

MR. FIXIT



To Solve Your Problems Phone 247-3797

Q—How were the prefix numbers on New Mexico license plates given to the various counties?—L. A. G.

A—Trini Gutierrez of the downtown Albuquerque office of the Motor Vehicle Dept. says the numbers were first used in 1947. Santa Fe County, since it is the capital county, has the number "1." The other counties were numbered in ascending order according to their population at that time, beginning with the largest. Thus Bernalillo County, the largest, is number "2." The number sequence has never been changed. When Los Alamos county was added, it was given the last number, "32."

State Offers Help with Airport

By ERNEST GRAFE

BELEN—An initial offer of \$49,000 from the New Mexico Aviation Board will reduce the cost to the city of a proposed municipal airport on the west mesa, still on the drawing board as backers follow a circuitous bureaucratic path toward government approval.

At the moment an environmental impact statement is making its way through a maze of government agencies that have to approve it, according to First National Bank President John C. Johnson, a flier and leading proponent.

That process is expected to be completed in early May, says Johnson, who isn't sure

what will come next. "It's a very complex process," he says, "and the government is just kind of leading us along."

But ultimate Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval seems likely. Belen had already been identified in the National Airport System Plan as a good location for an airport.

And FAA officials have been "very enthusiastic" over Belen's proposal, according to Johnson. "They see a lack of publicly owned small airports in central New Mexico, and have had to wait for a responsible local plan to be presented before they could take action."

An FAA document predicts the airport would be useful for general travel, business planes, emergency flights, spray planes and for feeder flights to commercial flights.

The document also says continuing expansion of cattle-feeding operations in the area has led to increased air travel for business purposes.

Single-engine planes are expected to make up 85 percent of the traffic at the airport, with twin-engine planes accounting for the rest. The FAA foresees 16,000 operations a year within five years, and 16,000 a year in 10 years.

That the benefits are generally long-term is also suggested by Jack Wood, owner and operator of the Mid-Valley Air Park in Los Chavez.

"It's not going to get much business," he says of the immediate future. "Maybe one or two tourists every two or three days. A ribble of businessmen. Charter service? We have a man here already who has to look elsewhere for business. And there's only about five people in Belen who own airplanes, and they'll park there only if the city has someone at the airport 24 hours a day."

Wood thinks the airport will not be profitable, and will be a "dead expense" for the city, but ultimately he supports the plan.

[Please Turn To Page 5]

State To Help.....

[Continued From Page 2]

"I want it to go in," he says.

One advantage of a Belen municipal airport, Wood says, will be that it can offer a practice place for students from Albuquerque and the area. But even more important, he says, Belen will not be able to grow significantly without an airport.

"Industry in the East is getting increasingly into general aviation," says Wood's son, Donald, who works with his father. "If you're going to have any growth here, you need an airport."

The Woods foresee horsemen, cattle ranchers, dairy farmers and businessmen all turning to flying as they realize the money they can save by saving time. A salesman, Donald Wood suggests, can cover a territory the size of New Mexico in two or three days instead of the week or two it would take in a car.

He also expects increased interest among the younger generation, particularly couples who have no children, where both husband and wife work, and they have more money to spend.

"The 55 miles per hour speed limit has helped make aviation attractive," say the Woods.

But a main barrier is education, they say, and here the proposed airport will help. The Woods think it will produce an awareness of flying in growing youngsters who otherwise would simply not think of flying.

A final possible use for the proposed airport, say the Woods, would be to receive airlifted patients for the new Eastern Valencia County Hospital, less than two miles away from it toward town just off Camino del Llano.

The planned site of the airport is about 2.5 miles west of Belen on Camino Del Llano. There will be a Northeast-Southwest runway 4,800 feet long and 60 feet wide, plus an access road, aircraft and automobile parking, a 30-foot taxiway and, in the future, a T-hangar area and a 900-foot runway extension.

Bank president Johnson affirms that only five Belenites own planes, but says that

others have owned them and given them due to a lack of suitable facilities.

There will be someone present at the airport 24 hours a day, he says, noting that three fixed-based operators have already asked for permission to bid on providing the service when the time comes.

As for Wood's contention that the airport will be a dead expense, Johnson says, "We envision almost no direct cost to the city."

The Federal Aviation Administration, if it approves the plan, will pay for 90 percent of the total cost of the project.

FAA Airport Program Officer Gary Foster told the *News-Bulletin* that a \$386,310 grant already has been earmarked for the 1978 fiscal year.

Belen will be allowed to use the cost of the land for the airport as its 10 percent contribution, and city officials have talked about selling a city-owned parcel south of Belen and using the proceeds to pay for the airport land, which is currently being held in trust by the First National Bank of Belen for the city and G. Weldon Burris, the owner.

Valencia County News-Bulletin May 1, 1978

Tells What Life Was Like in Village of Belen 70 Years Ago

Wagons Mired Down In Mud on Main

By W. E. GOEBEL

(Continued from last Thursday)

Life was rugged — After my father bought the business from Mr. Huning and the new vacant postoffice building was of no further use, he conceived the idea of installing a bowling alley. The east wall was taken out and benches built along the other walls. The alley consisted of twelve or fourteen 2x6's nailed together edgewise, the far end was flared out so as to accommodate the pins. The balls were smaller than the present ones, and did not have holes and were rolled from the palm of the hand. The backstop was an old cow hide strung up between posts. A "v" shaped gutter of 1x10's, slightly angled toward the players' end, served to return the balls. It was well patronized for some years. The pin-setter sometimes had to wear an overcoat in the late fall, or early winter, to keep

warm. The bowlers took pity on him and frequently bought him a glass of beer as encouragement. A keg of beer was the usual accompaniment, and mother and the servant girl had to provide the sandwiches. The alley was protected from the stock in the corral by a barbed-wire fence.

The original Catholic Church was in the old town of Belen and was washed-out during one of the infrequent floods of the Rio Grande, built mostly of fieldstone and mud. The site was the mound close to the property of the late Festus Campbell. This mound was the result of the ruin after the flood, which occurred sometime in the early '70's. A discontinued practice of the Church was the annual procession when the child-Christ was returned to the Church. I recall the long processions, two lines, one on each side of the road with outriders shooting off their muzzle-loaders. I asked what the shooting was for and was told it was to keep evil spirits away. It seems that each year some other parishioner was given the honor of re-dressing the Child.

The Protestants had no church until about 1886 when they banded together and built their own Lutheran Church. This building also served as our school, where we were taught, among other things, the English language. In later years the belfry was added. The building is now the property of Ignacio Chavez; the belfry has been removed.

It might be well to explain about the river. In those early days the river bed was some four to five feet deep, in the intervening years the river has been silted up to where it is now as high as the town, consequently the levees. In those years there was much more rain and snow than there is now, and the winters were colder.

Life was rugged — Wood was the usual fuel for cooking and heating, the exception was the flour-mill, which used coal, and the Huning mill had water-power (when there was water) and on occasion, coal, which was rather costly, since it had to be hauled from the station in Los Lunas. To procure wood the native would remove the box from his wagon, load on a half bale of hay, a few groceries for himself and take off. He would be gone four or five days, then return and sell the load for \$3.00 to \$4.00 and thought he was getting a good price. In those days the going rate for a day's pay was \$1.00; he usually traveled 30 to 40 miles

to the forests.

Rain! I have seen wagons loaded with farm-produce, almost hub deep in mud, coming down Main St. and drawn by three or four yoke of oxen. Even one of our early teachers got stuck in

crossing Main St. from my home to the school; my uncle had to pull her out. Oh! that good old Gumbo mud.

If the spirit moves me again I might send in another installment.

Belen Nearly Had 'Necktie Party';

Everybody Yelled 'Hang Him'

EASTERN VALENCIA'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1962

Nobody Had 'Nerve' To Pull the Rope

In the next Thursday issue, Sept. 27, the author, W. E. Goebel, who now lives at La Mesa, Calif., will tell about the Great Train Holdup at Belen. This will be the concluding article of the interesting "Life Was Rugged in Belen" series written by a man who lived in Belen before and after the turn of this century.

By W. E. GOEBEL

A curious custom in the retail stores in those days, but long since discontinued, was putting cigarette-tobacco and papers out in the open for the convenience of the customer.

The leading brands of tobacco were "Dukes Mixture" and "Bull Durham." An empty box, usually a cigar box, was provided. Into this was emptied a bag of tobacco along with a pack of brown papers. The customer would come in, and after exchanging the usual day's greeting, proceed to roll a cigarette and calmly smoke it until it burned his lips, after which he would start trading. After a while, however, others would come in just for the free smoke; so the practice gradually faded out.

The necktie party:

This colored boy came into town and was supposed to have raped a local girl, whereupon a posse was formed which took out after him. He was caught at the river, only after he had been shot in the leg. He was taken before the Justice of the Peace, whose court was held in the bar where he was bar-tender. After all testimony was in he simply asked, "Well boys what we do with him?" Everybody yelled, "Hang him"; so he was taken to the Plaza in front of the John Becker Store, where a Postal Telegraph pole was conveniently placed, the cross-arm of which made an excellent gallows. Nobody, however, had the nerve to pull the rope. At this time the sheriff drove up in his buggy, pulled out his six-shooter and ordered all to back away. The prisoner was taken to Los Lunas and placed in the jail. No medical attention was given, the gunshot wound became infected and he passed away there.

Origin of the Commercial Club:

About the year 1892 the young men of the town, mostly employees of John Becker, decided that they should have some sort of entertainment, so quarters were obtained in a native house back of the present Raborn Market consisting of two rooms. Card tables were set up in one room and the other was reserved for the bar and lunch-stand. A keg of beer usually was delivered Friday evenings, or Saturday mornings. Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons were busy times. Sunday mornings were reserved for religious services, as Belen was, in those days, quite a religious community. The Club was dubbed "The Belen Skaat Club." Later larger quarters became necessary and the club moved into a large hall, with a small anteroom, in the Oscar Goebel property and the name was changed to "Heyday Club"; later on it was moved to the Fred Becker property (now the site of the Kuhn Hotel) where a bowling alley was installed; after a few years there it built its own building on the site of the present Masonic Hall, where it was entitled the more distinguished name of "Commercial Club."

Another curious custom in those days was the practically non-

existence of the present copper penny. Change was made to the nearest five cents, over or under; and no change was given, the customer got trading-chips instead of cash, probably to encourage his return for future purchases. Most of the trading was in silver coins; there was very little paper money.

Snipe hunts:

These were considered a great sport. A visitor was the usual victim. The proposition was put to him very soberly (so as not to arouse suspicion); he usually accepted with alacrity. When everything was ready the party would go out to the foot-hills, about eight o'clock at night, give him a gunnysack and a candle and set him behind a bush where he had to light the candle, hold the sack open and whistle, while the rest of the party would go to round up the snipe. Of course the party went home while the poor dupe's lips got so dry that he couldn't whistle any more. He would just sit there until he decided that there were no snipe and go home, if he didn't get

lost on the way, he would find the party having a good time over cards and beer, and enjoying good laugh.

Picnics:

The Anglo population would have the annual picnic on the Fourth of July. Each family would bring a covered dish or two. The grounds were in a grove on the old bridge road northeast of town, about two miles out. Tables were set up, a dance floor was built, a keg of beer, with a large block of ice on top, was set up under a tree, and, of course, the inevitable galvanized tub for the lemonade for the youngsters, (why nobody ever got sick on that is still a riddle). The natives had never seen anything like that, so we were ringed around by them. In later years they got the habit, too.

BELENITE TELLS OF UNCOVERING, REBURYING BONES

Skeleton mystery solved?

A Belen plumber recalled here today that he uncovered and re-buried several skeletons at the same site of today's investigation at the Joe Pitts place at 200 East Campbell Avenue.

Dick Corley, River Road, said the bones were discovered while he was installing plumbing in the two-story garage apartment for F. E. Campbell, who now lives at 121 East Ross Avenue.

"WE REALIZED then that the skeletons were in an abandoned cemetery. There was no publicity at that time, but I did contact the mayor, then Mel Tate, and the city inspector, Tom Campbell. They advised me to go ahead and re-bury the skeletons since everyone knew it was a former graveyard," said Corley.

He recalled specifically that he wrapped the remains of what appeared to be a child in a newspaper and placed it back in the ground. "There were other skeletons nearby which we nev-

er completely uncovered," said Corley.

The plumber said this occurred in the same garage or storage building. There was a cement floor at the time, he recalled, but it was in very poor condition. In order to install plumbing under the building, a part of the floor had to be torn out and replaced. He said a new floor may have since been poured.

The late Jess Austin, who died in Belen last year, was living in the upstairs apartment over the garage or storage room, Corley recalled.

MEANTIME, authorities con-

tinued their investigation of the findings last Thursday night by two young workmen, Bob Thompson, 22, and Ronnie Brown, 18.

Several human skeletons have been uncovered, with the bones removed to the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque for tests.

Albert Cornell, assistant district attorney, said "it will be several days before we know what the tests show." He added that when the tests determine the age of the skeletons, "we'll know more about the situation."

Dr. H. W. Basehart, UNM anthropologist, headed a group of (See SKELETONS, page 7)



FIRST DISCOVERY — Shown above are skulls of the first two skeletons here last Thursday afternoon. The one at the left was loose from the remainder of the skeleton, while the skull at the right remains intact with the rest of the skeleton. (News-Bulletin Photo.)

SKELETONS

(Continued from page 1)

university people who came here and completed excavation work and removed several skeletons to the college.

Chief of Police Elfego Baca discounted an earlier reburial explanation. "I don't see where it fits in this case," he said. "Two of the skeletons are very complete," he noted. In all, five skeletons, four adults and one child, were removed. The excavating was completed Sunday.

ONE OF THE UNM anthropologists said yesterday that he feels "There's not much question now but that it's a graveyard."

Oldtimers recall that an early day Catholic church stood near the site and that a graveyard was in the vicinity. The church at Plaza Vieja, in Old Town, was destroyed by a Rio Grande flood about 1854-56. A decision to relocate the church in New Town, the present location, was made in 1856. This church, Chief Baca said, was near the Manuel O'Neal store, about two blocks northeast of the skeleton discovery.

If these skeletons uncovered last week were from that burial ground, they would date back more than 100 years. Some authorities pointed out that it is not unusual for human bones to remain in good condition much longer.

Truck lifted and overturned; hood ripped from passing car

top side down by the tornado.

Peter, who at one time many years ago lived in tornado country, said he just couldn't believe what was happening and didn't know whether to crawl under his desk or just keep watching.

The pickup was identified as belonging to Manuel Orosco of 207 San Lorenzo

Drive, Belen.

Peter and other witnesses to the twister's touchdown in Belen said the winds ripped the hood from a passing motorist's vehicle and hurled the hood high into the air before letting the hood begin its descent to earth.

No persons who witnessed this

incident were able to identify the motorist. Most just seemed stunned by what they had seen.

Jerry Ritchie, pharmacist at Buckland Drug, said he was returning to work from his home in Rio Communities about 1 p.m. when he saw what appeared to be

Continued on page 9



SOME OF DEVASTATION--wrought by Tuesday's tornado which struck in downtown Belen is shown in the overturned pickup, the debris which was once one of the buildings at Ranchero Builders and broken windows and other damage to

the Hub Motel directly north and across the street from Ranchero's. The tornado lifted the Ranchero building some 20 feet above a telephone pole before tossing it into the street and against the motel.

Site in Belen Area Offers

Prehistoric Storybook



ANCIENT CAMPGROUND: Dr. Frank Hibben, left, and UNM anthropology student Steve Shure examine scattered stones at a site near Belen which their trained eyes identified as an archaic Indian campground. "All these stones were carried here

by men; none occurred in this spot naturally," remarked Hibben, of the UNM Dept. of Anthropology. Hibben is in charge of a \$1000 grant from Horizon Corp. to excavate the Belen area site, which lies on land belonging to Horizon.

(Journal photo)



BISON BONE: Dr. Frank Hibben identified this bone, the size of a man's fist, as the leg bone of a "succulent young (Ice Age) bison." The fragment is imbedded in a piece of the bank which eroded and fell into the wash at a site near Belen. (Journal Photo).



STRATIFICATION: Archeology student Steve Shure points to a meandering clay line in a dig site near Belen. Other varying strata levels can be seen below his arm, where the clay gives way to fine gravel, then clay again, then larger rocks, then a mixture. Flecks of charcoal found in the soil below the large rock level give definite indication of ancient habitation at the level. (Journal photo)

By **BILL HUME**
Journal State Editor

BELEN — An ancient accident of nature in placing a spring near a plain with a shifting ground level has left a chronological storybook for 20th century archeologists in a hilly site near here.

The spring has run for at least 30,000 years — and probably thousands longer — according to Dr. Frank C. Hibben, of the University of New Mexico department of anthropology.

Hibben is in charge of a \$1000 grant given UNM by Horizon Corp., owners of the land, to excavate the site and read the prehistory buried there.

The field work is being conducted under the direction of Steve Shure, UNM anthropology graduate student. He intends to write his PhD dissertation on the results of the dig.

"THIS COULD TURN into an extremely important site," Hibben said. "We know relatively little about the paleo Indian cultures."

This is stratification—the archeologist's delight.

Interestingly enough, it was man again who caused the cover to be opened on the site, hinting at the knowledge hidden there.

Overgrazing of the land in the last decade caused erosion which stripped off the hills' top layer of soil, spilling a tantalizing preview in the form of stone scrapers, grindstones and projectile points down the wash.

MOST OF THE more obvious artifacts, like the points and grinding stones, have long since been picked up by local collectors, Hibben said, but the ones that give information are the ones expected to be found by excavation—in place, with surrounding artifacts.

With the stratification at the Belen site, and the extreme antiquity of some of the cultures in question, geologists will be called in to help place the various levels in terms of geologic time.

A walk up the arroyo with commentary based on Hibben's trained eye puts a whole new light on the varicolored dirt walls.

In one area, the ground is fine-grained and colored a dark charcoal gray.

"That was probably a boggy marsh," Hibben commented.

THEN THE WALLS get higher. At one point a band of clay meanders along in a generally horizontal plane.

"I think this is an old land level," Hibben said. Now it is covered by seven feet of dirt. Presumably, anything lost or left by anybody who lived at the time that was the ground level is now back in the interior of the hill, waiting to be unearthed.

Then one sees a horizontal band of smooth pebbles and rocks, some 10 or 12 feet below the present ground level.

Hibben theorized that they

might have been a stream bottom or possibly of glacial origin.

"We're going to need a good geologist," he remarked.

IN A PIECE OF bank which broke off below the pebble band a bone is embedded. Only a small portion shows, but it is apparent that the joint end is the size of a grown man's clenched fist.

Hibben identified it as the leg bone of a "succulent young (Ice Age) bison."

At the time the paleo Indians were hunting in the Rio Grande Valley, the topography was considerably different then it is today. Hibben described it like this:

The Rio Grande at that time was a wide, sluggish river, comparable in size to the lower reaches of the Mississippi River today.

THE LANDSCAPE was covered with tall, lush grass which fed the bison and mammoth which fed the Ice Age hunters.

Only the implements and hunting and cooking sites of the Folsom, Sandia and Clovis men have been found so far. Not a single human bone which can be definitely linked to any of the three cultures has yet been discovered.

Perhaps modern man's first hint of what his Ice Age New Mexico counterparts looked like is awaiting the probing trowels of the UNM

anthropologists near Belen.

Hibben said he expected additional funding to be forthcoming to finance extensive long-term excavations at the site. Major excavation will begin this summer, he said, but preliminary survey and excavation work is already under way.

THE BELEN SITE may one day be known along with Sandia Cave, Folsom site, Blackwater Draw and Agate Basin as one of the significant places at which the story of prehistoric man in America

emerged from the covering of the centuries.

But the normal situation is to find but one ancient culture at a site.

At Belen, one culture apparently lived by the spring for a while, nature covered up their leavings, another moved in, nature covered up their leavings, and so on — right up to the beer can found on the surface today.

No other known site offers the variety and indisputable chronology that the Belen site promises.



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ANO 100

A CENTURY OF NEWS

Valencia County News-Bulletin turns 100 this week

By SANDY BATTIN

Special to the News-Bulletin

A century ago this week, Saturnino Baca turned out the first copy of *El Hispano Americano*, working in the summer heat of his garage.

New Mexico wasn't yet a state, but Valencia County already had a long and proud history. Belen was an up-and-coming community, growing steadily, and Baca saw that there was plenty of news that needed to be shared with his neighbors.

An educated man — he'd been superintendent of Valencia County schools for years — Baca waded in and began writing news, preparing advertisements and serving as the official source for legal notices from his home at Main and Bernard. The Spanish version of the newspaper continued as *El Hispano Americano* and the English one as *The Belen News*.

It's been a tradition followed ever since. Now in its incarnation as the *Valencia County News-Bulletin*, the newspaper has been the only real substantive source of local news — from wedding announcements to landmark governmental events to tales of sorrow and joy — for the last 100 years.

It has told the story of Valencia County's tragedies and triumphs, always being there to serve as a connection between the people of the county and the news they need and want to know.

No copy of that first edition, dated June 11, 1910, is known to exist now; a "tragic fire" was reported that destroyed the earli-

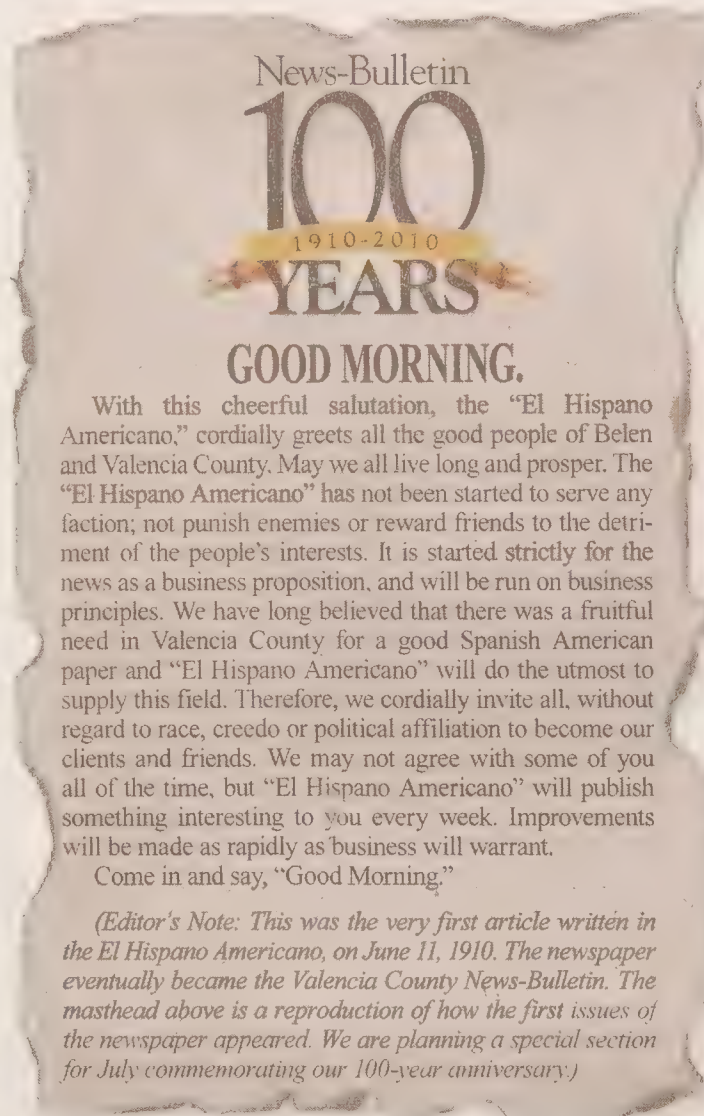
est archives, although no specifics were given. The earliest edition in the bound volumes that fill two 14-foot-long shelves in the *News-Bulletin's* Belen office is from 1916.

"Our charge has essentially remained the same — we continue to provide local news and information in all of its forms," said Dave Puddu, vice president and chief operating officer of Number Nine Media Inc., owner of the newspaper. "The *News-Bulletin* realizes the importance of serving our communities with fair, accurate and unbiased reporting. For the past 100 years, we have been the documenters of history in Valencia County. We have been gathering and disseminating information for the past 100 years to keep the public informed and government open and accessible.

"The *News-Bulletin* has been an integral part of Valencia County's social fabric and has been supportive of the municipalities, businesses and charities, both financially and through service, for the past 100 years."

The Baca family — with Saturnino's son Elfego at the editorial helm for many years, and with partner Ignacio Baca setting the type by hand — steered the *News* through its first four decades, keeping the presses running through two world wars, the Depression, a tragic influenza epidemic, droughts, floods and fires.

They reported on county commission meetings, police and magistrate news, children's birthday parties, Works



Progress Administration jobs, local men captured by the Japanese at Bataan and others held in German prisoner of war camps. All of it was delivered with the added spark of the humorous fillers that completed the columns when the copy didn't quite fit. Their work was the grit and grins — the life-

blood — of the community.

But time passes and things change. In 1946, as the story the newspaper wrote about itself said, "Elfego, for reasons of health, sold the newspaper to Edwin J. Lewis."

That same year, a second weekly newspaper, the *Bulletin*, was founded by George Perkins.

The newspaper's legendary long-time owner Carter Waid arrived on the scene in January 1947, purchasing part of the *Bulletin*. By April, the three men had formed a partnership and created the *News-Bulletin*. By 1954, Waid was the sole owner.

One of the most widely respected journalists in the state, Waid was later inducted into the New Mexico Press Association's Hall of Fame. He, with the help of his wife, Martha, and their daughter, Lil Lou Gillette, racked up numerous writing, reporting and advertising awards for the newspaper.

Waid never stopped working. Reporters remember him returning from lunch with his pockets full of paper napkins with leads for stories scrawled on them, complete with telephone numbers for the people involved.

His evenings were spent covering meetings, and he was always on duty, listening for middle-of-the-night fire alarms and attending virtually every civic event in the county.

Waid branched out into other media as well, founding KARS radio.

A weekly until 1947, the *News-Bulletin* began appearing twice every week. It was a tabloid at mid-century — lovingly called "the little paper" by some readers during those years to differentiate it from the big Albuquerque dailies — but returned to its original full-size format in 1966.

Waid sold the *News-Bulletin* in 1963, returning to manage it

in 1966, purchasing it again in 1970 and publishing it until his retirement in 1977.

Through the subsequent years, the newspaper had several owners, including Meredith Corp., owner of *Better Homes & Gardens*, of which local residents received free subscriptions when they signed up for a year's worth of *News-Bulletins*, and the Green brothers, Walt and Ken, who published newspapers in Ruidoso, Deming and Socorro.

For a time in the 1990s, it was owned by Jack Kent Cooke, storied owner of the Washington Redskins and the *Los Angeles Daily News*, and then World West, a three-state chain of newspapers owned by the respected journalistic Simons family of Lawrence, Kan.

Since 2001, the *News-Bulletin*, with its sister paper, the 144-year-old *El Defensor Chieftain* of Socorro, has been owned by Number Nine Media, Inc., a subsidiary of Journal Publishing Co. of Albuquerque.

In the last two decades, the *News-Bulletin* has won numerous reporting and advertising awards from the New Mexico Press Association and the National Newspaper Association.

It appears online at www.news-bulletin.com, where it is read by former residents who want to maintain their connection with Valencia County.

"As one of Valencia County's oldest businesses, we take great pride in what we do and are excited to begin our next chapter in the evolution of this very fine newspaper," Puddu said.

LA VIDA

Notici
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Classi

Trust and security

Yesterday was a time of unlocked doors, store credit and good friendships

La Historia del Rio Abajo is a monthly column about Valencia County history written by members of the Valencia County Historical Society. It is now in its 10th year, without interruption.

This month's author is a professor of History at the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus, vice president of the Valencia County Historical Society and president of the Historical Society of New Mexico.

The author wishes to thank Matt Baca and all those who shared their memories of a more trusting era in Rio Abajo history.

Opinions expressed in this and all columns of *La Historia del Rio Abajo* are the author's alone and not necessarily those of the Valencia County Historical Society or any other group or individual.

la historia del rio abajo



Richard Melzer

Each generation feels the impact of modern change and longs for the serenity of days gone by. In conversations with longtime residents of the Rio Abajo, much is missed, from old traditions, like Saturday night dances, to old buildings, like the Becker-Dalies Store in Belen or the Simon Neustadt Store in Los Lunas.

Residents also miss a strong sense of trust and safety in almost every part of their lives. In the past, people strove to get along and maintain good relations with others (*para ceder bien*), starting with mutual trust.

Ask longtime residents for examples of how people used to trust one another and they usually start by mentioning their homes.

People used to leave their doors unlocked both day and night. Residents even left their doors open for hours or days at a time when they went shopping, visiting, to work or on vacation.

Residents wanted to make their houses accessible to friends and relatives who might drop by to borrow something or share fresh eggs or items from their gardens.

Residents were so trusting that they publicly announced when they were leaving town on business or for pleasure. The front page of the local newspaper regularly reported who was on vacation and how long they planned to be gone!

Early telephone operators freely gave information about one's comings and goings as well. Belen's first operator, Quirina Baca, answered and connected each call in person. With her office overlooking much of downtown from the second floor of her building at South Main and Didier Ave., Quirina could see who was in town throughout the day. She thought nothing of sharing this information with callers, suggesting that they call back later when those in town returned home.

Lista del A. de. 1912.
Julio 17 -
Somora

Alcides Sancho	X	5 97
Alfonso Garcia	X	1 75
Edmundo Sanchez		11 07
Josefina Ponce	X	1 72
Santos + Chavira	X	9 23
Josefina Ponce	X	7 00
Alfonso Garcia	X	1 75
Alfonso Sedillo	X	1 82
Alfonso Sanchez	X	1 42
Alfonso Sanchez	X	4 13
Alfonso Sanchez	X	1 80
Alfonso Sanchez	X	7 36
Alfonso Sanchez	X	1 53
Santos + Chavira	X	5 61
Camilo Bayona	X	2 87
Alfonso Sanchez	X	13 54
Alfonso Sanchez	X	31 65
Santos + Chavira	X	8 57
Alfonso Sanchez	X	9 00
Alfonso Sanchez	X	18 62
Alfonso Sanchez	X	15 33
Alfonso Sanchez	X	13 65
Alfonso Sanchez	X	16 71
Alfonso Sanchez	X	3 14
Alfonso Sanchez	X	7 57
Alfonso Sanchez	X	2 8 65
Alfonso Sanchez	X	4 7 27
Alfonso Sanchez	X	11 79
Alfonso Sanchez	X	2 97
Alfonso Sanchez	X	10 43
Alfonso Sanchez	X	12 57
Alfonso Sanchez	X	2 41

Richard Melzer photo

THE LEDGER from Matt Baca's father's store shows credit was extended to many customers. Many stores extended credit, which was usually paid when the customer had money or at the end of the month.

Historia: People left their keys in their vehicles

from PAGE 1B

People even left their keys in their cars and trucks. Theft was rare, and it was a good way to always know where you left your keys, as Rupert Baca recently recalled.

Residents let friends and relatives — and even strangers — borrow items, large and small. One family had a large reddish-brown horse, appropriately named Big Red, that grazed in an open field near the family's home off North Main Street in Belen. People sometimes asked to take Big Red for rides, although few knew that the horse was so strong-willed that he was difficult to control, no less ride for pleasure.

Once a muscular football player asked to borrow Big Red. The football player wasn't gone too long before he returned. Big Red had simply decided he wasn't going any further and, taking control, returned home with a clearly embarrassed rider.

Ironically, a petite girl often asked to borrow Big Red and had no problems with the horse. They were sometimes gone for hours. Like everyone else who borrowed Big Red, the girl always returned the animal to its rightful place.

People even trusted homeless men. Referred to as hobos, these down-on-their-luck men came to back doors to ask for food, often in exchange for work. Most residents were quite generous, although few people actually invited these strangers into their homes.

Dennis and Maria Gabaldon were the exception. Finding a homeless man suffering from frostbite, they welcomed him into their home, where he lived in a back room for over a year. When Mr. Nash later died, the Gabaldons obtained permission to have him buried in Belen's Catholic cemetery.

Hobos knew where generous families lived. Unbeknownst to the families, men often left symbols on fence posts or other places to show fellow hobos where particularly kind, trusting people resided.

Farmers and gardeners were also known to share their bounty with less fortunate neighbors. Matt Baca remembers when his father, Carlos B. Baca, gave poor people access to his Adelino barn to milk a cow or take some eggs, as needed. In a scene reminiscent of the Bible, Carlos opened his fields to those in need when corn was left in the fields after harvest.

In a similar act of generosity and trust, Dennis Gabaldon grew so much chile in his garden that his long porch was always full of freshly picked chile. Dennis invit-

ed people to take as much chile as they could use, an offer that many people accepted whether Dennis was at home or not.

People's trust in one another extended to most business transactions. Sylvia Storey remembers taking empty bottles to a vat filled with milk at a dairy south of Belen in the 1960s. Sylvia and others filled their bottles with milk and simply recorded how much they had taken on a small card located near the vat. Based on their notes on the card, people paid their milk bill at a later time.

Storekeepers also trusted their customers. Many people bought on credit, a true blessing when money was scarce during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Even small items, like tobacco or candy, could be bought on credit. Customers simply told storeowners, "Punta me lo" or "put it on my tab" as they left small general stores throughout the county.

Customers at Feil and Ellermeyer's, Becker-Dalies and other popular stores could purchase clothes, shoes and other apparel "on approval." This meant that a person who was not sure about a particular pair of shoes, for example, could take the shoes home until they decided if they wanted to finally buy them. Most people bought what they took on approval, making it a good — and usually profitable — practice for trusting storeowners.

Car dealerships were also more trusting when potential customers wanted to test drive vehicles or take them to show to friends and relatives before making such a major purchase.

Dealers are still willing to let customers test drive cars, but (understandably) seldom without a salesman along. And customers can take cars home, but (understandably) only after filling out piles of forms, requiring all sorts of information.

Charles Storey remembers that his father, Nestor Storey, bought a used truck from a certain dealership on the south end of Belen. Without a down payment or any credit papers to sign, Nestor simply paid off the truck on his regular gas tab. Charles bought a camper shell in the same way.

Bankers trusted regular customers in a similar fashion. Bank officers welcomed customers by name and extended credit with no collateral or lengthy loan applications required.

Businessmen closed transactions with handshakes alone or with agreements often scribbled on the back of envelopes or on other scraps of paper. Based on trust alone, these informal arrangements varied in size from

small amounts to small fortunes.

Lawsuits were rare, and, if legal recourse was taken, settlements were usually small, and were generally fair and amicable to both parties.

People even trusted one another with their "mail," according to a wonderful story told by Alvino Contreras. Alvino recalls a small hill, known as Pedro Baca Hill, named after a local resident who often drove his livestock to graze in an area in northern Socorro County.

Pedro Baca Hill was best known as the place where people left everything, from clothes and letters to saddles and cash, with nothing more than the intended recipient's name to designate ownership. People simply claimed their items whenever they passed by the hill.

Alvino says that he and others enjoyed dropping by Pedro Baca Hill just to see what had been left at this outdoor "post office." No one thought to take what hadn't been "addressed" to them, and most "mail" was "delivered" as efficiently as if it were handled by the U.S. postal service.

In perhaps the ultimate act of trust, parents trusted their children's safety with most adults, especially authority figures like club leaders, church leaders, doctors, policemen and teachers.

Teachers were generally so admired and respected that parents almost always sided with them, rather than with their children, when disciplinary problems arose. Corporal punishment was the accepted norm. In fact, kids didn't dare tell their parents when they had gotten into trouble at school for fear of additional punishment by their parents for upsetting their teachers and disrupting their classrooms.

In maybe the best example of trust regarding children in the care of adults, a young couple living and working in Albuquerque would send their infant daughter to stay with her grandparents in Los Chavez each work week before bringing her back home to Albuquerque each weekend.

The baby's parents entrusted their daughter to the conductor on the old Doodlebug train (equivalent to today's Rail Runner) in Albuquerque. Once in Belen, the conductor would deliver the child to her grandparents waiting at the depot.

The baby's shuttle went on for months without incident. Never in danger, the baby grew up safely and soundly. Her name is Gloria Sanchez of Belen.

Parents trusted their neighbors and community so much that children played almost every-

where, from the Rio Grande to the open mesa, without fear. Parents let their children walk long distances to school, the store or to friends' or relatives' homes, secure that the odds of their being stopped or bothered, no less kidnapped, were slim.

Does this mean that Valencia County was once a Shangri-La, free of crime and misfortune? Hardly. But it was a more trusting place, missed by all who once enjoyed it.

If it is at all comforting, we must remember that every generation has looked back with nostalgia and has pined for what it knew and trusted in its youth. As difficult as it may seem, our current world, with all its apparent mistrust and problems, will someday be remembered with nostalgia by those who are young in the Rio Abajo today.

Monday, February 17, 1975



SANTA FE ROUNDHOUSE . . . in the 1907 Belen railroad yards it looked like this. The Cecil Wilsons of Truth or Consequences recall that on April 15 of that year they drove to the Rio Puerco the day before. "We started to the Rio Puerco station but our horses were so slow that we didn't get that far on the first day," says a note on the picture.

Outlaws Hold Up Train at Belen; Escape with \$25,000 in Gold

Bandits Shoot the Sheriff; Later Hung

By W. E. Goebel

About the year 1896, when W. J. Bryan was campaigning for the presidency and his platform was "Free Silver," the notorious outlaw, "Bronco Bill" Ketchum and his partner, "Kid Johnson" tethered their horses near the Jarales Railroad crossing for the quick escape.

The El Paso bound Santa Fe

passenger train came thru Belen about 1 o'clock a. m. Apparently there were no passengers boarding or leaving the train that night. The express messenger, unarmed at that time, threw out the mail bag and suspected nothing, neither did the agent; the bandits covered the train crew, had them disconnect the baggage car and ordered the engineer to pull out.

At the Jarales crossing they rifled the safe and escaped with some \$25,000 in gold; the silver they threw at the engine crew, and rode off to the West. At that

hour of the night the passengers, probably, were all asleep and didn't realize what had happened.

Presumably the agent wired headquarters, for the next day the sheriff, Francisco Vigil, came down from his office in Los Lunas, deputized the local blacksmith, Sam Bustamante, and set out after the bandits.

In a little Indian settlement southwest of Belen, about half way to Madalena they picked up an Indian guide. They overtook the bandits around their camp, fire and arrested them. One of them asked the sheriff if he could

go to his horse to get his tobacco; immediately he got behind his horse, pulled out his rifle from the scabbard and shot both the sheriff and the deputy; somehow the Indian got away and gave the alarm. The bandits were picked up later in Arizona, returned to Santa Fe, where both were hanged.

More About Snipe Hunts:

Another Snipe hunt, somewhat more drastic than the one mentioned previously; this took the

victim out into the pond (or lake) which used to be about where the band-stand is in the city park. Here he would be put in hip-boots and told to hold the bag, out in the middle of the lake, and whistle, (while the rest of the party went home.)

Snipe hunts:

These were considered a great sport. A visitor was the usual victim. The proposition was put to him very soberly (so as not to arouse suspicion); he usually accepted with alacrity. When everything was ready the party would go out to the foot-hills, about eight o'clock at night, give him a gunnysack and a candle and set him behind a bush where he had to light the candle, hold the sack open and whistle, while the rest of the party would go to round up the snipe. Of course the party went home while the poor dupe's lips got so dry that he couldn't whistle any more. He would just sit there until he decided that there were no snipe and go home, if he didn't get lost on the way, he would find the party having a good time over cards and beer, and enjoying good laugh.

Picnics:

The Anglo population would have the annual picnic on the Fourth of July. Each family would bring a covered dish or two. The grounds were in a grove on the old bridge road, northeast of town, about two miles out. Tables were set up, a dance floor was built, a keg of beer, with

Party!

Fort Sumner Was 'Capital' of Pecos Country in Turbulent Years

2 Famous Cattle Trails Crossed Here

The word "Pecos" has a special place in western history. In New Mexico and Texas history it is volumned with sagas of cowboys, Indians and outlaws.

The Pecos River rises high in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of Northern New Mexico and winds through eastern New Mexico and southwestern Texas before emptying into the Rio Grande.

Through the turbulent latter half of the 19th Century, Fort Sumner was the "capital" of the Pecos country in New Mexico. And plenty of significant history has been written at this site in the heart of the Pecos Valley.

First of all, Fort Sumner, located at the junction of U. S. Highways 60 and 84, in east-central New Mexico, is included in the northeast corner of territory known as "Billy The Kid Land." For it was here, in what are now the ruins of Pete Maxwell's old house, on a hot July evening in 1881, that Sheriff Pat Garrett ambushed and killed the Kid. And it is also the site of the Kid's famous last words "Quien Esta?" (Who's there?)—and his burial place.

In the 1800's there were no dams on the Pecos, and Fort Sumner was the junction point where two famous cattle trails—the Stinson and Chisum—converged and huge herds of live-stock would ford the river.

In 1862, the U. S. Army erected Fort Sumner about three miles

south of the present city. The site was known as Bosque Redondo (round grove), a pleasant tree-studded area of lush, fertile land.

A few years later, in 1865, one of the most tragic "experiments" in the annals of U. S. Indian policy was carried out at the fort. Seven thousand Navajos, captured in western New Mexico by troops led by Kit Carson, made the "long walk" to the "Bosque" and on the orders of the U. S. Government — became farmers.

They stayed for three years (1865-1868), trying to till the land, and were plagued with drought, hostile Indian attacks, and blighted crops. They suffered disease, starvation and death, until the government relented in its orders and sent them back to their own land, where they remain to this day.

Today, the waters of the Pecos River are held back by Alamo-gordo Dam, a few miles northeast of Fort Sumner, for the purpose of irrigating some 6,000 acres of fruit, corn, hay and other crops. The dam also serves as a recreation area for boating, water-skiing, fishing and picnicking.

The countryside surrounding Fort Sumner offers some of the state's finest upland bird game, waterfowl and antelope hunting. Distant mountain ranges afford trout fishing, big game hunting, winter sports, picnic areas, and summer resorts — a few hours drive from Fort Sumner over modern, paved highways.

On July Fourth, the Fort Sumner Mounted Patrol holds its Annual Rodeo — a thrilling, action-filled event that every visitor long remembers.



VIEW DOWN DALIES AVENUE AND BECKER AVE.

... The above photo shows the First National Bank as it was located beginning in 1914. It remained at this location until 1963. The structure currently houses Belen Savings and Loan Company. More cars are in evidence than in the early 20's. Looking down Dalies, at left, one can see the original Ford Company, followed by a store, then an

empty lot where later the Onate Theatre was built, the current building of Belen Attorney Mayo T. Boucher and at the end of the block the original Buckland Drug Store. The tents housed food establishments during fiesta as cafes were not very available at the time. Hamburgers, tacos and other foods were sold to fiesta goers from the tents.



BECKER FLOUR MILLS . . . The John Becker building, which also housed the flour mill, is shown in a photo taken looking south from what is now a parking lot for Sprouse-Reitz and Becker Dalies. Note the sign giving

directions to Socorro which has an arrow pointing to the east. This was due to the fact that one had to cross the river at Belen at that time before proceeding south to Socorro. The photo was taken in the early 1900's.

Early Days of Historic Belen Told in Book

This is an abridged account of the early days of the history of Belen, founded some years before the Revolutionary War was fought in the New England States.

The author is F. Stanley of Pantex, Tex., who entitled his book,

"The Belen, New Mexico, Story."

Mr. Stanley in his opening paragraphs had this to write about Belen in the year 1740:

Belen, thirty miles south of Albuquerque, on the El Paso highway, is six miles from the ruins of Alto, one of the northernmost of the Piros Pueblo Indian villages. A sedentary, semi-civilized, peaceful tribe, the Piros

were pushed out of existence by the Apaches, Navajos and other marauders. Hoping for safety in numbers, they abandoned Alto in favor of Pilabo some time before the Europeans came into the area in quest of the Gran Quivira. The Spanish government located a genizaros settlement here as a bulwark against wild tribes, and to lessen the attacks on Albuquerque and Santa Fe. 'Twas soon realized that the genizaros possessed some of the richest bottom land of the Rio Grande Valley, so they petitioned Governor Don Gaspar de Mendoza for a royal grant. In so doing they made it clear that they were within their rights as loyal sub-

jects of the king. A number of the men had given many years of service in the army. The reward for such service was always a parcel of land. Grass was needed for their ever-increasing flocks of sheep. Up to now most settlers grazed their sheep east of the Tome and Valencia areas. There was good grass along the west bank of the Rio Grande. This was the land they wanted.

"Captain Diego de Torres and Antonio de Salazar, and other signers hereto, before the greatness of Your Excellency, with the greatest proper submission, state that whereas we have large families, and having examined an uncultivated and vacant tract of land at the point of the Rio Abajo, and being unappropriated, we register the same, and petition for a grant in the royal name of His Majesty, whom God preserve, for the purpose of settling thereupon, there being suitable land for cultivation, and such as is not will answer for pasture grounds for our herds and flocks, which we promise to occupy and settle as required by royal ordin-

ances. The boundaries of which are: on the east the Sandia mountains, on the west the Puerco river, on the north, on both sides of the river, the boundary of the lands of Nicolas Chavez and those of the adjoining settlers of Nuestra Senora de la Concepcion de Tome; on the south the place called Felipe Romero in a direct line until it intersects the boundaries above mentioned, from east to west. Which Your Excellency being pleased to grant to us as requested, without any injury to a third party having a better right, we will settle thereupon as aforesaid. Our petition is not asked in malice but for the purpose of overcoming our difficulties."

Don Gaspar de Mendoza appointed a committee to investigate the matter. It reported no obstacle. The governor granted 121,633 acres. Captain Diego de Torres took possession in the name of all the others on December 9, 1740. The alcalde failed to register the document until January 25, 1742. The new settlement was called Nuestra Senora de

Belen (Our Lady of Bethlehem) or simply Belen.

(Continued next week)

Water from Shallow Wells Was 'Hard as Nails' in Old Belen Days

2017-004-016

To Soften Water, Soda Was Added

**"Rugged Days in Belen"
(A Continuing Chapter)**

Cemeteries — The original cemetery of the Catholic Church was just to the north of the church building, between the church and the present school, another section was to the southwest of the church, which was for the poorer people, since a burial there did not cost so much. The old burial ground is now the playground for the school children; also serves as a parking lot during church services. The few protestants in town had no cemetery, but, apparently, got permission from the Belen Grant Commission to use a plot of ground just west of the Catholic Church, across the old Belen ditch.

In later years the Catholic Church claimed this land and the Protestants were required to move so a plot of ground was procured northwest of town and most of the bodies from the old site were moved there. The old site became a gravel pit, and several old burials were uncovered; since there were no markers these could not be identified.

Water: - Domestic water came from shallow wells and was hard as "nails". The water strata was in layers about five feet thick. One layer of gumbo, another layer of water-bearing sand in which the well point would be stopped so as to produce water.

At Five-points, just north of town in the vicinity of the Aragon Store, there were two spots where the ground was continually moist due to seepage from ground water, which was only about two feet deep. Since the Conservation Canals were dug the water level has dropped considerably.

I, personally, wanted soft water so I sank a well to 100 ft. and got water so hard that it wouldn't cut soap. Thru this sandstone at 100 ft. was soft water. Beans could cook all day and wouldn't get soft unless soda was added to the water. Pumps were usually outside and had to be thawed out in the winter, and in summer the handles got so hot that one had to use protection to keep from getting blisters. Bathing was done in wash-tubs since there were no bath-tubs, and, if there was a bath-tub, the drain was piped just to the outside of the room, since there were no sewers. In case of fire bucket-brigades came in handy, as was the case of the Felipe Chavez residence, which, incidentally, was saved in this manner.

The natives got around the hard water situation by filling pails and ollas or other recep-

tacles with water from the river; since this was muddy and full of silt they just let it set for a while until the sediment settled to the bottom. It really never was clear, but was drinkable and good for laundry, and best of all, it was soft.

In those early days it was custom to empty sewage into the nearest river, and this was what Albuquerque did, which, I believe, was the only town in the state, (territory) that enjoyed a sewer system at that. Incidentally, water can be cleared quickly by swishing a bruised cactus leaf (prickly pear) thru the water.

Sheep: - During the dry season sheep would be driven down to the river from the mountains, not only for water but also for graz-

ing. We kids, down at the river for swimming or fishing, would see the flocks being herded toward the mountains, so we would hunt in the gullies for strays, occasionally finding one or two lambs and occasionally a grown sheep, which was petered out. At that time a sheep could be bought for \$1.00.

Fiestas: - The annual Fiesta in August, in those days lasted only a day and a half. John Becker had a porch the length of his store, approximately 8 ft. wide and some 150 ft. long; this was divided into sections of about 10 ft. for rental purposes for the various gambling games which were permitted at that time.

"Chusas" was a very popular sport then. This consisted of a round table with the bottom

slanted toward the center at which point there was a well with some twelve or more sticks radiating upward around the periphery; these sticks were cupped on the upper ends to catch the marbles that were used in the game.

The player would get a handful of these marbles and whirl them one at a time, or a handful at once, having made a bet with the operator that there would be an even number caught on the sticks. Onlookers would bet among themselves as to the outcome, odd or even.

Our first experience with the then new Talking-machine. This fellow had a cylinder machine with eartubes. For 10 cents one could hear the voice, or music

on a cylinder; he sure "cleaned up" that year. Several dance tents were in order on those days, as well as bar tents, and the usual concessions. There were no regular bars in those days.

On one occasion we boys stopped one crooked spinner game. This one put silver dollars between the pins, ones, twos and so on, up to ten dollars. We noticed that the operator had a stack of dollars under his hand which he played with until the arrow was about to stop, then he would apply a little pressure to stop the arrow between empty pins. We offered to play if he would remove his hand from the stack of dollars, needless to say, he wouldn't. But that was the last time he came to Belen.

Life Was Quite Rugged in the

Set Train Brakes By Hand in Old Days

By W. E. Goebel

I can't recall when the Air-brake was perfected, but I do remember that hand-brakes were the rule in my youth. The brakemen (so named because of their duties of setting brakes by hand) all carried short pickaxe handles to provide extra leverage to the hand wheels on train cars. When a train approached the station the locomotive did not have enough braking power to stop it, so the head "Brakey" (as he was called) would start at the head of the train, while the rear "Brakey" would start at the Caboose and work forwards, setting brakes by hand. When the train was ready to start again the process was reversed. Schedules? Apparently there were none. On occasion, the entire train crew would repair to the agent's little grocery store, across the street, and imbibe some good-cheer, after which they would proceed on their way. Passenger Cars also had brake-wheels, some on vertical shafts, others which folded down, while others had long ratchet arms.

Belen, in those days, was a struggling community. The whites had built a private school for their children, (still standing, and now being used as a residence) in the rear, at the corner of Goebel Ave. and Main St., which was, until recently, the office of Dr. Rivas; is the property of Ignacio Chavez. The costs of educating the children was \$1.00 per month per child, this, I believe, constituted the teacher's salary, which amounted, more or less, to about \$30.00 or \$40.00 a month. Very few native children attended because of the costs. Just to the south of the school was the village "Smithy," who had a pitcher-pump. There we would go with a galvanized bucket to get water for our school. A tin dipper was the means of getting a drink. Life was rugged, so we got by without contracting any diseases.

Life was rugged — the north-bound passenger train came thru about 5:30 p.m. We kids would wait for it with our nickles and dimes to buy candies from the "News-Butcher." Precious expenses, since we got no allowances, as is the case nowadays; we had to earn ours.

John Becker paid his boys 25c for every rat caught and 10c for a mouse; my dad wasn't quite so affluent, he could pay only 5c per mouse and 10c per rat, so we didn't earn too much. Whenever a shipment of watermelons came in we would help the station master unload; invariable, he would drop one, so we had a melon feast whenever this happened.

Life was rugged — when Mr. Becker had the post-office moved to his own establishment, the transportation of the mail-bag to and from the depot fell to a deaf-mute. For some inexplicable reason he was never held up, or molested, during all the years he had this job, even tho he carried it on the darkest nights. In those days the business houses stayed open until about 8 p.m.

Plate glass for store fronts was a risky business in those days, owing to flying stones and wild bullets. But, when the south wing of the Becker building was built it was equipped with large glass fronts, however, these were protected with steel roller blinds and so were quite safe from destruction. On a still night when these blinds were lowered they could be heard almost over the whole town, people then knew it was

eight o'clock.

Life was rugged — Usually, in the spring of the year, an epidemic of smallpox would break out, since it was considered a children's disease the natives would expose their children wherever possible, since, as they thought, they just had to have it. The only doctor lived in Los Lunas, who came down, mostly, only on call, since it was a tedious hour's drive by horse and buggy; besides, he probably was quite busy with the disease up there. A private telephone line built by Mr. L. Huning from his store in Los Lunas to his flour-mill in Esmeralda to his store in Belen to the Leins & Denkeney winery at the end of Didier Ave. facilitated the calling of the doctor.

207-24-017

See over

The natives got around the hard water situation by filling pails and ollas or other recep-

Former governor's son recalls decades of history

In researching Valencia County history, I am always impressed by the number of county residents who are the descendants of famous New Mexicans. It has been my privilege to interview many of these men and women and, on occasion, write about them in this column.

Anne T. Williams's memories of her famous father, Joseph Tondre, is a recent example. With Anne's kind help, I was able to piece together Sheriff Tondre's efforts in solving the "onion skin" murder mystery of 1926. (La Historia del Rio Abajo, Aug. 17, 2002) Joseph Tondre went on to become "Mr. Republican" of Valencia County and the warden of the New Mexico State Penitentiary in the early 1950s.

Most recently, I met and interviewed Lloyd W. Miles of Rio Communities. Born in Endee, N.M., Lloyd is the son of John E. Miles, the Democratic governor of New Mexico for two terms, from 1939 to 1942, and later a U.S. Congressman, from 1949 to 1951.

Lloyd has fond memories of his father's personal life and public career before, during, and after John Miles served as the governor of our state.

Lloyd recalled how his father first came to New Mexico to homestead on the state's eastern plains in 1906. From there, John Miles became a storeowner, a postmaster, and, by 1912, a local politician.

John Miles rose steadily in the political ranks, becoming chairman of the state Democratic Party from 1934 to 1938. By the late 1930s, he was ready to run for the highest office in the state. Albert K Mitchell was his Republican opponent in the hard-fought gubernatorial race of 1938.

Lloyd was one of John Miles's 10 children. Lloyd and at least three of his siblings worked hard in their father's 1938 campaign. Older brother Wade served as his father's secretary, while sisters Mildred and Peggy made speeches in her father's behalf.

Lloyd helped in the campaign by driving his father to countless political events across the state. Although only 17, Lloyd drove his family's 1935 Buick over good roads and bad. He remembers that Albert Mitchell's daughter was always envious that she couldn't drive her father's campaign car just because she was too young.

John E. Miles won the 1938 gubernatorial election with 52 percent of the vote. His inauguration on Jan. 3, 1939, was a colorful event, with the new governor appearing in formal black cutaway coat, striped trousers, and a silk top hat. A crowd of 700 witnessed the swearing-in ceremony at the old capitol

building in Santa Fe.

Shortly after his inauguration, Gov. Miles was ready to move into the Governor's Mansion. Arriving first, Lloyd and a friend got to the mansion only to find that all its locks had been changed.

According to a famous political legend, Gov. Clyde Tingley had loved being the state's chief executive so much that he had had all the locks in the Governor's Mansion changed before he moved out. Constitutionally denied a chance to run for a third term in office, Tingley asserted that if he couldn't live in the Governor's Mansion, then no one else could.

Faced with a mansion of locked doors, Lloyd and his friend resorted to climbing in a basement window and opening the building's doors from the inside. Gov. Miles moved in shortly thereafter.

Despite this incident, Lloyd has good memories of the Tingleys, especially Carrie, Clyde's colorful wife. Carrie Tingley was famous for her love of fancy hats, the color purple, and, more seriously, children afflicted with crippling diseases, including polio.

Carrie Tingley liked Lloyd so much that she asked him to be her driver. Lloyd had to turn the job down because he was still busy with his high school classes in Albuquerque. Once he graduated, Lloyd spent six months working as a driver to help transport sick children to the recently opened Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children in Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences).

Lloyd lived in the Governor's Mansion on at least a part-time basis while his father served as governor from 1939 to 1942. The mansion underwent extensive remodeling in those years, with light paint replacing old dark colors in many rooms.

Lloyd also lived in Washington, D.C., after landing a job in the U.S. Senate library. Lloyd liked the nation's capitol, but missed New Mexico.

One day, a fellow New Mexican came by to see Lloyd and announced that he was planning a trip home in his Pontiac. Asked if he wanted to go along, Lloyd replied without hesitation, "Give me five minutes and I'll be ready!" The two young men were gone within the hour. The generous fellow who had invited Lloyd along for a ride home was Tibo J. Chavez.

Lloyd says that his dad was pleased with his record as governor in the last years of the Great Depression and the first years of World War II. The governor became good friends with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and, especially, with Postmaster General James Farley.

As a result of these political ties, Gov. Miles was able to draw a considerable amount of federal money into New Mexico to help reduce unemployment with such New Deal programs as the WPA and the CCC.

Using federal funds and WPA labor, New Mexico's new state fair grounds were built in a then-isolated 236-acre section of east

Albuquerque. Dressed in a double-breasted suit, Gov. Miles officially opened the fair season in 1939.

Gov. Miles was also proud of his efforts to improve the schools of New Mexico, including the working conditions of public school teachers.

Although supported by labor, the governor was strongly opposed to labor violence. Lloyd recalls a particular incident in Madrid, a small coal mining camp south of Santa Fe. When a labor dispute in Madrid threatened violence, Miles sent in the state police. His orders were simple: "Leave the workers alone as long as they are peaceful. But as soon as they cause trouble, run them off."

John E. Miles was governor as the nation prepared for World War II. Many New Mexicans volunteered for military service or were drafted in this early period of the conflict.

By then Lloyd was one of only 40 state policemen in the entire state. Eager to keep as many policemen out of the draft as possible, efforts were made to have Lloyd deferred. Hearing of these efforts, Gov. Miles replied that his son "didn't look any different than any other young man" just because his father was the governor.

Lloyd thus entered the military. He served in China, Burma, and India for 33 months during World War II. He then served in the New Mexico National Guard and Reserves for another 29 years. He retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In an equally successful civilian career, Lloyd worked as a state policeman, became the chief of police in Clovis and Raton, and was a municipal judge in San Juan County for 15 years. He married his wife, Bettye, raised a happy family and retired to Rio Communities.

Shortly after Gov. Miles left office in 1942, an artist painted his portrait in Santa Fe. It is a fine painting, capturing the mild but firm temperament of New Mexico's 12th state governor.

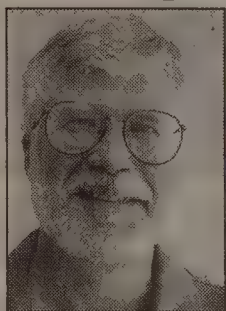
The portrait now hangs in a place of honor in Lloyd's family living room. I asked Lloyd if I could take a picture of him beside his father's image.

As Lloyd stood there, I noticed the striking physical resemblance between father and son. And, after two hours of conversation with Lloyd, I knew that father and son resembled one another in values and ideas as well.

Gov. Miles died on Oct. 7, 1971, but much of who he was and what he stood for lives on in an elegant but unassuming home in Valencia County today.

Richard Melzer, a professor of history at the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus, is president of the Historical Society of New Mexico. This piece was distributed by the society. Melzer also is the editor of La Historia del Rio Abajo, which appears in the News-Bulletin on the third Saturday of each month.

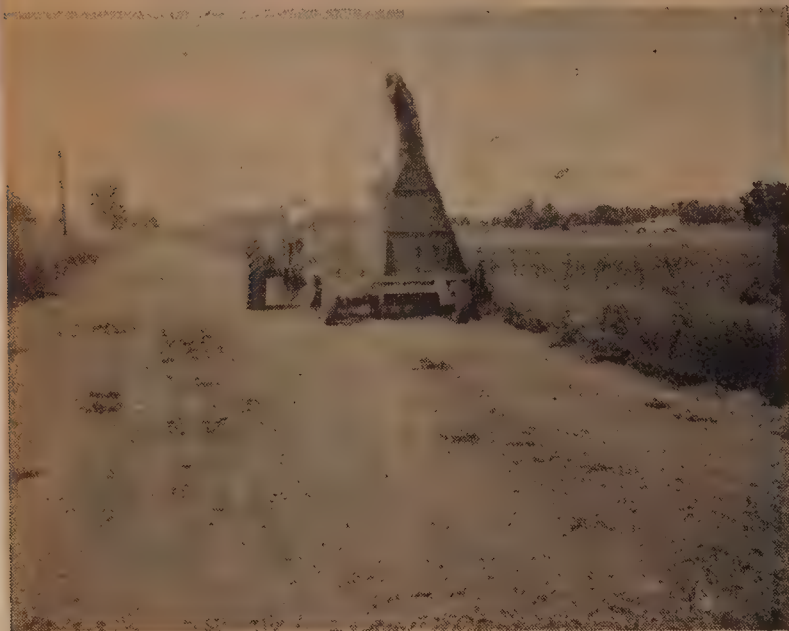
on
history



Dr. Richard
Melzer



NEW BANDSTAND — The Fair Association has completed a new bandstand at the center of the fairgrounds north of Belen, with the help of two local businesses. The George Gabaldon Construction Co. donated the labor and the Belen Sand and Gravel Co. contributed the concrete. This addition will be the center of many youth activities, according to fair officials... such as special band music, showing of movies and a teen-age dance. The bandstand was modeled after the traditional installation at Albuquerque's Old Town.



CUTTING WEEDS - County Fair Association members are busy cutting weeds on and around the fair grounds. Pictured on the tractor is the Superintendent of the Fair, James Goodson.



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1961

NATIONAL ADS PROMOTE BELEN

side.

NATIONAL ADS . . .

(Continued from Page 1)
the Belen Chamber of Commerce (temporary incoming mail office of Horizon Land corporation) from Minnesota, Michigan, Virginia, Missouri, Nebraska, Illinois, Utah, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia and Washington, D. C., according to Mrs. Martha Atkinson, secretary of the Belen C of C. More letters were received from people living in Minnesota than any other state.

Also, long distance calls were received at the Belen office from New Jersey, New Orleans and Abilene, Tex.

In the ads, the late Ernie Pyle war correspondent and author, is quoted as saying, "of all the places in the world that I have seen, Albuquerque and the Rio Grande Valley are the most beautiful spots of them all . . . and that is where I'll make my home." (Pyle was killed while serving as a correspondent in the Pacific in World War II).

Rio Grande Estates will be a homesite development of Alameda Land Corp., a subsidiary of Horizon Land Corporation, which has offices in New York City, Tucson, El Paso and Albuquerque.

An officer of the corporation was to be a guest speaker Tues-

Development Company Puts Belen on Map

A wave of telephone calls and letters flowed Tuesday into the Belen Chamber of Commerce office in the wake of a national newspaper advertising campaign launched last Sunday for the Rio Grande Estates development east of Belen.

In this morning's mail, 128 letters of inquiry addressed to Rio Grande Estates were received at the Belen Chamber of Commerce office. Fifteen additional letters pertaining to the new Belen homesite development project were addressed to the Chamber directly. Thirty-three of the letters came from points in Minnesota.

The advertisements in metropolitan newspapers in 20 major American cities told of full acre homesites for people who are retiring, seeking a vacation home in the Land of Enchantment or looking for an investment.

"Some 350 days a year of bright, healthful sunshine await you at Rio Grande Estates," reads the advertising copy of the Horizon Land Corporation of Tucson, Arizona.

Belen's oldest land company dissolved prior to 70th year

Belen's oldest land company has been dissolved shortly before its 70th birthday.

It is the Belen Town and Improvement Co., Inc., developer of the original Belen Townsite.

Officially, the company was founded Sept. 4, 1903, and dissolved Feb. 28, 1973.

The dissolution was announced recently by the officers at that time, consisting of Ben C. Becker of San Diego, Cal., president; Dallas Sims of Dallas, Texas, vice president; Mrs. Marian Herlihy, Belen, vice president; and Edwin H. Leupold, Belen, secretary-treasurer. Leupold became secretary about 1940 and has maintained company records since.

Formed about the time the Belen cutoff was being constructed by the Santa Fe Railway, the company owned 960 lots and 40 blocks of land in the heart of what is now Belen, plus other outlying tracts.

The principal area encompassed was between Gilbert Avenue on the south and Ross avenue on the north, and between the railroad yards (First street) on the east and Main street on the west. There were a few other lots to the north of Ross and west of Main.

When the land company was formed, New Mexico was still a territory. Signing the incorporation papers for the territory were J.W. Raynolds, secretary of New Mexico, and George A. Fleming, an officer of the Department of Interior, Territory of New Mexico.

The surveyor was Pitt Ross.

Local incorporators were John Becker Sr., the principal stockholder, Louis Carl Becker, Carl August Dalies, William Martinez Berger and John Herman Becker. Berger was named general manager. John Becker was president. The incorporation papers said the purpose of the company was buying and selling of real estate, and sub-dividing of land. The company incorporated for \$40,000 and for a 50 year period. This was renewed June 10, 1959. 400 shares of stock was issued.

Besides land, the company at various times owned many improvements, including the John Becker store building, flour mill, and scores of residences.

The last four lots of the land company were sold in 1972, three of them going to

Continued on page 9

the First Baptist Church. The lots were in the middle of the block across the street north from the church.

A newspaper advertisement in an Albuquerque daily, published Wednesday, July 17, 1907, presented the picture at that time better than any other available source.

That advertisement, reproduced and now owned by Marian Herlihy, read as follows:

GO TO BELEN

The Future Railroad Center of New Mexico.

Located on the Belen Cut Off of the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. The new city of Belen is 31 miles south of Albuquerque, N.M., is at the junction of the main lines of the Santa Fe system-leading east and west from Galveston and Chicago to San Francisco and Los Angeles, and from the northern states to El Paso, Texas, and the Republic of Mexico.

The Belen Town and Improvement Company [Incorporated]

Are the owners of the Belen Townsite, consisting of 1000 business and residence lots size 25 x 142 feet, fronting upon 80 and 70-foot streets, right in the business center of the new city and directly upon the Santa Fe Railway Depot grounds. The Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company is now grading its extensive dept grounds; yard limits 800 feet wide and mile long (capacity of 70 miles of side track); to accommodate its immense passenger and freight traffic, Harvey eating house, round house, coal chutes, water tanks, machine shops, etc.

THE CITY OF BELEN has a population of 1500, and several large Mercantile Houses, the Belen Patent Roller Mills with its 150 barrels a day capacity, winery, etc. It is the largest shipping point for flour, wool, wheat, wine, beans, hay and fruit in New Mexico. From its location upon the great trunk line leading north, south, east and west to points in the U.S. and Mexico. Its future growth as a commercial point cannot be estimated. All fast limited, mail, express and freight trains will pass through Belen, to Chicago, Kansas City, Galveston and Pacific Coast.

The water is good and climate

unsurpassed. Belen has a \$16,000 public school house, two churches, a commercial club, three hotels, restaurants, etc. It needs right now a good up-to-date newspaper and a good hotel. The lots offered are low in prices and terms easy. One third of the purchase money cash; two-thirds may remain on note and mortgage for one year with interest at 8 per cent per annum. Title perfect and warranty deeds given.

Come early if you wish to secure the choice lots. For further particulars and prices of lots call in person or write.

THE BELEN TOWN AND IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.

John Becker, president.

Wm. M. Berger, secretary.

\$60,000 Worth

Acid Ruins Merchandise

By ELLEN SYVERTSON

BELEN—Investigators from the State Police Crime Lab and the Criminal Investigation Division were pouring over evidence collected from Billie's Fashions here at midweek looking for leads toward the arrest of vandals which caused at least \$60,000 worth of damage to the store and its merchandise.

A spokesman for the State Police in Santa Fe said the agency had entered the investigation of the extensive vandalism at the request of City Manager Richard Aragon.

Billie Bottoms, owner of the women's wear shop, said the damage was caused by acid trickled over every rack of clothing in the store and slung around indiscriminately over the carpeting, shelves and other surfaces.

She said the damage must have been caused sometime late Saturday night or early Sunday morning. She said the store was locked at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, and the vandalism was discovered when she and her husband, Wayne, returned to it at 9 a.m. Sunday.

She told Belen police and the state police investigators the vandalism must have been vindictive in purpose, because she could discover nothing missing, including some cash left in a cash register and her safe.

The act was particularly devastating to her business, Bottoms said, because it ruined all of her fall clothing, and she will likely be able to buy nothing to replace it. Clothing buying for retail sale is done months ahead, she said, and clothing manufacturers already are designing, cutting and sewing spring and summer fashions for 1979.

She valued her ruined merchandise at about \$60,000, and had no estimate on the other damage—to carpeting, walls, racks, shelves and clothing accessories.

Local police, arriving to investigate the incident Sunday morning, speculated that whoever broke into the store used a sharp prying tool on one of the doors and then

systematically sprinkled the acid over each rack of clothing.

Although some garments sustained only stains, some melted off the hangers and lay on the floor. Others were fused by the acid.

Bottoms said she was not sure of the extent of her insurance coverage, but did not believe it would cover the loss completely.

She added that until the loss was catalogued, her insurance coverage determined and the destruction cleared away, the shop will remain closed.

State police spokesmen said at press time that they had not had enough time yet to analyze the evidence completely, and could shed no further light on the incident.

REMEMBER WHEN...



Four brothers from Torné meet in San Diego, Calif., in 1945. Shown are Alfonso, Paul, A.S. and Tony Torres. This photo was submitted by Frances Perotti of Belen. At top, Damacio Garcia with a fully loaded truck of hay in 1948. Submitted by Nellie Herrera.

Our annual look back at the past through historic photos submitted by our readers.

A special supplement to the
VALENCIA COUNTY
News-Bulletin
July 24-25, 1999

1999 HONOR ROLL OF BUSINESSES

Valencia County- A thriving place to live and own a business. The Can-do attitude of Valencia County's people and businesses has resulted in great prosperity. The businesses below have contributed greatly to the area's success and are proud to play a part in the future of Valencia County.

88 YEARS

Since 1911,
local news,
local people
and local businesses
have been
our priorities!

Valencia County
News-Bulletin

53 YEARS

AUGE'S
A BELEN TRADITION
SINCE 1946



Robert & Ed Auge
850 E. River Rd. • Belen
(505) 864-4482

50 YEARS

**Hub Furniture
& Carpet Co.**

One of the oldest and
largest furniture stores in
New Mexico since 1949.
50 years of great quality
and service!
204 N. Main St. • Belen
864-4536

40 YEARS

**Ned's
Shamrock
B&B**
Truck & Auto
Sales
864-8480

We Buy, Sell & Trade
Used Cars & Pickups
19515 N. Hwy. 314
Belen

37 YEARS

**Home
Furniture &
Carpet Co.**

La-Z-Boy Bassett
Sealy Benchcraft
Lane Ashley

"We Meet Or Beat
Anybody's Prices"

3-6-12 months same as cash
O.A.C.
Mon. - Fri. 9-5:30 Sat. 9-5

865-9891
704 Main St. NE
Los Lunas

36 YEARS

NINER'S
LAND LEVELING
CLEARING & GRADING

"Since 1969"
Lic #9868



Specializing in Laser Leveling
• General Earth Moving
Road Building • Fill Dirt •
Building Pads
865-7154
or **865-9485**
1025 Don Pasqual
Rd., N.W.,
Los Lunas

26 YEARS

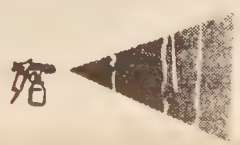
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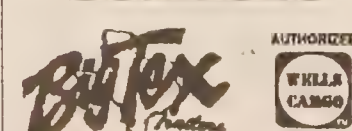
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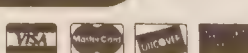
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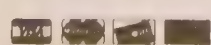
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The Simon Neustadt General Merchandise sat on the southeastern corner of Main and Los Lentos in Los Lunas where the Village Inn now sits. The photo owned by Ann Tondre Williams was submitted through Patty Guggino of the Valencia County Historical Society.



In a photo from the 1880s, the Huning Mercantile is shown surrounded by shoppers. This photo belongs to Jack and Louis Huning and was submitted by Patty Guggino of the Valencia County Historical Society.

On Route 66



Katherine and Eligio Gallegos are shown in a photo owned by Ted Gallegos. Katherine Gallegos was a beloved educator for whom a Los Lunas Elementary School was named.



This view of the old San Clemente Catholic Church of Los Lunas was taken in the 1940s. The photo belongs to the Museum of New Mexico and was submitted by Valencia County Historical Society President Patty Guggino.



A group of people gather at AJ's lunch counter in this 1920s photo. Antonio Archuleta was operator of this cafe. The building was torn down in the 1980s. The photo is from Salo Archuleta and was submitted by Patty Guggino of the historical society.



Climacio Aguirre poses with a dog at the service station that once stood on Main Street in Belen. Behind the pumps, a glimpse of the old Valencia County Courthouse can be seen. The photo belongs to Angie Aguirre Chavez of Los Lunas. It was submitted by Patty Guggino of the historical society.

In old Los Lunas



People are lined up in front of the old Valencia County Courthouse on Main Street in Los Lunas one day in 1936. The photo is courtesy of Mary S. Daley-Bledsoe and was submitted by Patty Guggino of the historical society.



Firefighters ride on the Los Lunas fire engine in a Fourth of July parade in the 1940s. Salo Archuleta owns this photo, but it was submitted by Patty Guggino, president of the Valencia County Historical Society.



The old Los Lunas High School, shown here in 1936, was chock full of great memories for many students through the years. Photo courtesy of Mary S. Daley-Bledsoe, submitted by the Valencia County Historical Society.

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Estella Torres, age 20 in 1935, and the wife of former police officer Paul S. Torres and grandmother of Belen Mayor Ronnie Torres, is shown here. The photo was submitted by Magdalena Mendoza.

Window on the past



A matanza was held in the backyard of the first home built in Bosque Farms in the late 1920s. It was on the east side of the highway and its owners were Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Pacheco, according to Prospero Jaramillo, who submitted the picture. Mrs. Pacheco was a teacher in Peralta and Mr. Pacheco worked on a big garden plot behind the house, raising chile, watermelons and corn. Shown here are (from left) Prospero Jaramillo, Salomon Sanchez, Clem Jaramillo, Cresencio Pacheco, Salomon Chavez and Nicolas Pacheco.



Part of this photo, taken sometimes in the mid-1930s, is missing. It shows a group of children, dressed in their best, displaying some of the work they'd done at the old Valencia Elementary School. At the top, the boy at the left is Tody Perea, uncle of the current magistrate by the same name. The other boy at the top is Gabriel Silva. Rose Sanchez, Arcida Perea and Alicia Maes are among the girls. The photo was submitted by Carmen Perea of Valencia.



Labbs Motor Co. was housed in the building that eventually became Tommy's Lounge on South Main in Belen. This shot, submitted by Ruth and Lee Auge, was taken in about 1936 or '37.

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The Belen High School football team of 1956 was the first ever to go undefeated. The Eagles were the District IA champions that year. Shown are (kneeling) Tony Trujillo, Nino Trujillo, Clifford Garley, Mickey Weathersby, Bill Beasley, manager, Charles Seery, Gilbert Sanchez, Richard Peña, Joe Montoya and Casey Cordova. In the middle row are Harry Trujeque, Norbert Sanchez, Joe Sanchez, Joe D. Reed, Lloyd Sais, Roy Storey, Casimiro Gonzales, Bill Riley, Dick Hunergardt, Harold Wilson, Scott Henington and Ted Montgomery. Standing at the back are Paul Wood, Ray Jaramillo, Arthur Ortega, Eloy Gutierrez, Juan Sanchez and Raoul Sedillo. The coach was E. "Bull" Padilla and Abbie Paiz. This photo was submitted by Ruth Cordova of Jarales.



A 1968 baseball team consisted of (bottom) Casey Cordova, Pat Carrillo, Paul Trujillo. On the top row are (third from left) Juan Sanchez, Herman Kaneshiro, Joe Montoya and Willie Chavez, all of Belen.



Belen High School graduates and first cousins lined up in 1957 for a photo in front of Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church. Shown are Reina Gallegos Sandoval, Ruth Gallegos Cordova, their grandmother, Luisa, and Mary Lou Gallegos Romero.



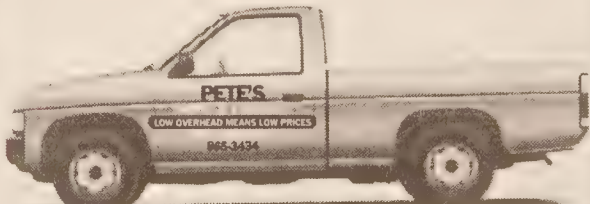
Doreen Cordova Romero and her best friend, Donna Sanchez Avila, were dressed up for a 1976 Sadie Hawkins Day dance at Belen High School. Submitted by Ruth Cordova.

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School days

The 1947-48 fifth-grade class at the old Becker Building in Belen includes (bottom row, kneeling) Ralph Baca, Eddy Baca, next two boys unknown, Peggy Johnson, Margaret Barnes, next boy unknown, Jimmy Butler, Charles Wright and Gilbert Sanchez. In the second row are Marina Sanchez, the teacher is Marina's mother, Anthony Sanchez, Josie Chavez, Ermie Carrillo, Daisy Vallez Sanchez, Shirley Correa Chavez, Ruth Gallegos Cordova, an unknown boy, Raymond Sanchez and an unknown girl. On the top row are Paul Wood, Joe D. Reed, the next two boys are unknown, Eloy Gutierrez, Larry Standard and Leroy Bustamante. The photo was submitted by Ruth Cordova.



The second-grade class of Miss Ernestine Sanchez in the 1958-59 school year. Shown are (front) Susan Harle, Mildred Aragon, Lynn Trembly, Donna Scoggins, Diana Silva, an unknown girl, Debbie Barrett, Diana Griego, Patricia Murphy, and Christine Baldonado. In the second row are Robert Ulibarri, Victor Padilla, an unknown boy, Dennis Martin, Seferino Saiz, Charles Buehler and Ernest White. In back are an unknown child, Donald Space, Leonard Castillo, an unknown boy and J.L. Flack. The photo was submitted by Lynn Trembly Sanchez.

The sixth-grade class of Mrs. Hardy at Central Elementary School is shown here. In the row closest to the wall are Monico Martinez, a boy whose first name is Frankie, Barbara Baca, Charles Buehler, Juan Baca and Diana Sanchez. In the next row are Marlene Santo, Nicky Sanchez, Mary Ann Baca, Louise Radcliffe, Keith McDonald, and Chloe Berrett. In the next row are Suzanne Pierce, Steven Brown, Sheila Chavez, a boy named Albert, Gloria Grice, a girl named Linda and Martin Quintana. In the second from right row are Tony Baca, a boy named Johnny, Mary Ellen Torres, Elizabeth Gurule, Sandra McCraw, and a boy named Robert. In the front row are Diana Griego, Bobby Palmer, Henrietta Campbell, Mark Guinn, a girl named Lorraine and Pete Serafin. The photo was submitted by Sandy McCraw Battin.



A 1965-66 second-grade class taught by Amalia Quintana (back) is shown at Jaramillo Elementary School. The photo was submitted by Dolores Padilla. The identities of the children weren't written down.

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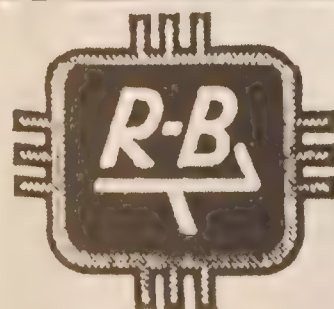
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In Your Corner

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Soul of a community



Belen High School basketball player Casey Cordova is shown during practice in 1955. Submitted by Ruth Cordova.



Members of a long-ago Los Lunas Board of Education are shown in a picture originally owned by Ruth Tondre. Shown are Alfredo Galas, Joe M. Baca, Joe Tondre, Emiliano Sanchez, Ernest Sichler and Silverio Sais. The photo was submitted by the Los Lunas Schools.



Jeff D. Trembly, now a Belen city councilor, is shown on March 3, 1960, as he poses with a birthday cake of Dodge City. It was made by his grandmother Trembly, who was known for her fancy decorated cakes.

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Bells and belles



The Belen Federated Church evolved into the First Presbyterian Church and is now Riverside Funeral Home. It's shown here in 1937. Photo submitted by Lee

A procession begins at the old Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church in 1938. Submitted by Lee and Ruth Auge.



Ruth Lutrick Auge and Eudora Chavez West pose with two other Future Homemakers of America members in this 1949 photo.



This view of the Isleta Catholic Church shows a plaza that's changed a bit over the decades.

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A pond once stood where Anna Becker Park is now in the middle of Belen. In the winter, people would ice skate on it. The old Belen Federated Church can be seen in the background. Submitted by Selma Martinez.

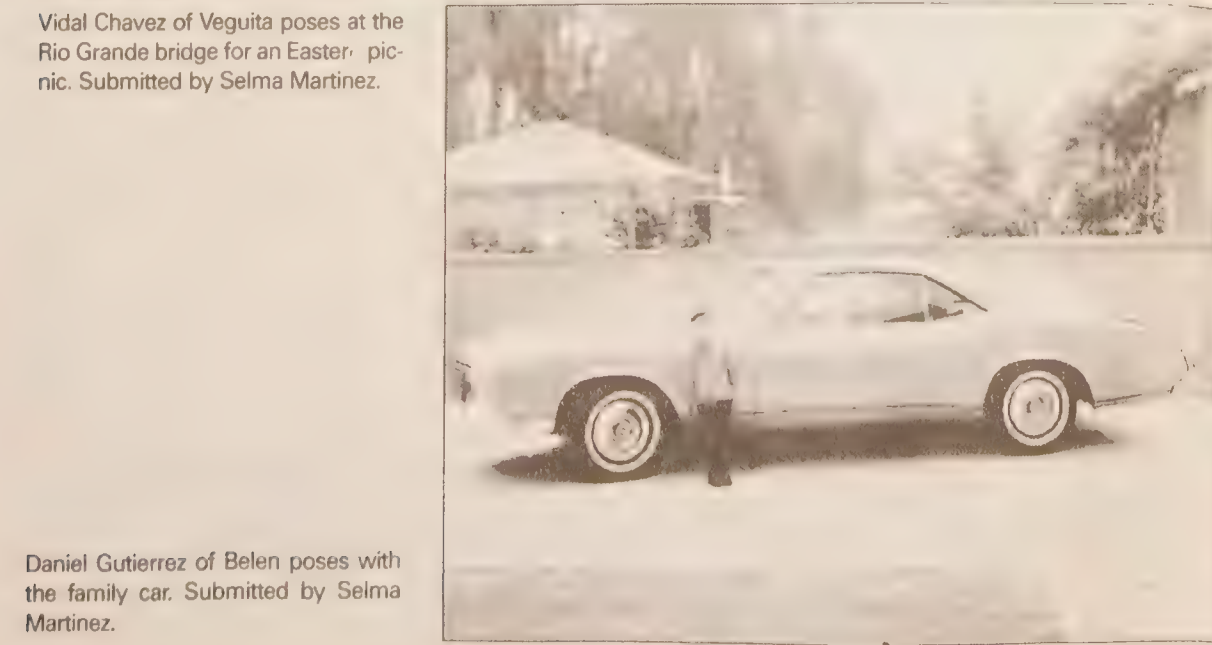
Family ties



Luciano Romero, Jose Gallegos and Joe Garcia are shown building the home of Horacio Trujillo in Belen. Submitted by Selma Martinez.



Vidal Chavez of Veguita poses at the Rio Grande bridge for an Easter picnic. Submitted by Selma Martinez.



Daniel Gutierrez of Belen poses with the family car. Submitted by Selma Martinez.

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Los Chavez days

Nellie Garcia Herrera and LeRoy Garcia pose with a 4-H project in 1949. Submitted by Nellie Herrera.



The wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Damacio Garcia is celebrated on either side of the couple by Francisco Chavez and Ignacio Garcia in 1932. Submitted by Nellie Herrera.



Damacio Garcia — who most folks know from Damacio's Chili Shack in Los Chavez — prepares for a mantanza. Submitted by Nellie Herrera.



A group celebrates during the Fiestas de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Los Chavez in the early 1950s. Shown are (from left) Nirfa Gabaldon, Esequil Gabaldon, Longnita Garcia, Damacio Garcia, Onofra Salazar and Pat Salazar. Submitted by Nellie Herrera.

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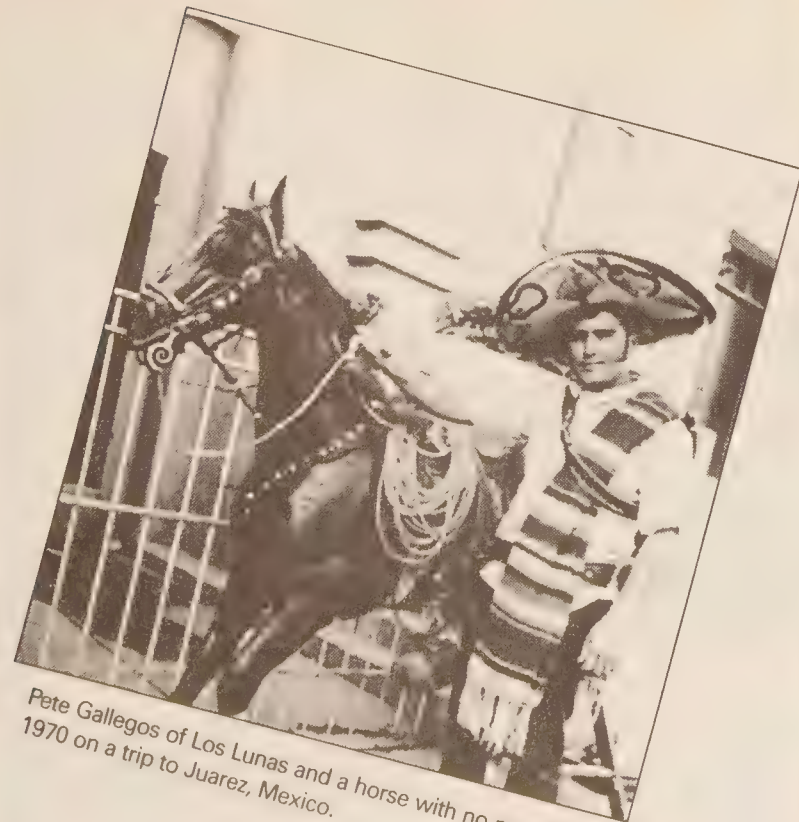
Growing up



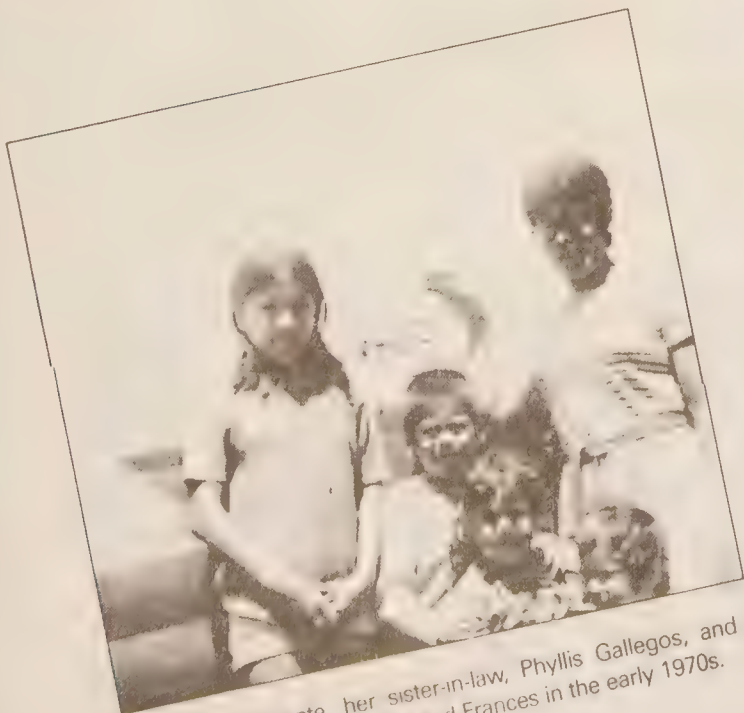
Esmael and Susie Gallegos hold little Pedro "Pete" Gallegos in 1950.



Pete Gallegos on his cousin Teles Baca's motorcycle — barely in 1960.



Pete Gallegos of Los Lunas and a horse with no name circa 1970 on a trip to Juarez, Mexico.



Lorraine Talamante, her sister-in-law, Phyllis Gallegos, and Phyllis's children, Chris, Lisa and Frances in the early 1970s.



Diana De Baca submitted this photo of a first holy communion at Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church.



Anna Kretsinger, left, is shown in a fiesta parade photo about 1910. Photo submitted by Ruth Prater.



A group of young and oil watch the fiesta parade going through downtown Belen in 1935.



This photo of the Rainbow Girls was taken on June 2, 1944. Ruth Prater, who submitted the photo, is shown at the back on the far left.

*A sense
of community*



Bride and groom Ernie and Flavio Peralta pose with Clorinda and George Gutierrez in an undated photo submitted by Selma Martinez.



A family gathers, circa 1963, for a group portrait. Shown are (back, Pat, Dan, Sesario, Arsenio, Alfredo, Eloy, Rosendo, Horacio and Joe Trujillo. In the front row are Lena, Jose, Bernardo and Lydia Trujillo. Submitted by Selma Martinez.



Auge's Sales & Service in its 1951 location. In the background is the 1951 Dodge pickup that was the first they had to sell. Now restored, it's on display at the new Auge's Sales & Service. Submitted by Lee and Ruth Auge.



The first Valencia County Fair can be seen at Becker and Fourth in Belen in 1938. Submitted by Lee and Ruth Auge.

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Betty Grable resembled June Redenbaugh.



The Belen Rainbow Girls organized a World Premiere celebration at the Onate Theater and invited locals to appear as movie stars. Here's the Youth Week Parade that kicked everything off. Ruth Prater submitted these photos.



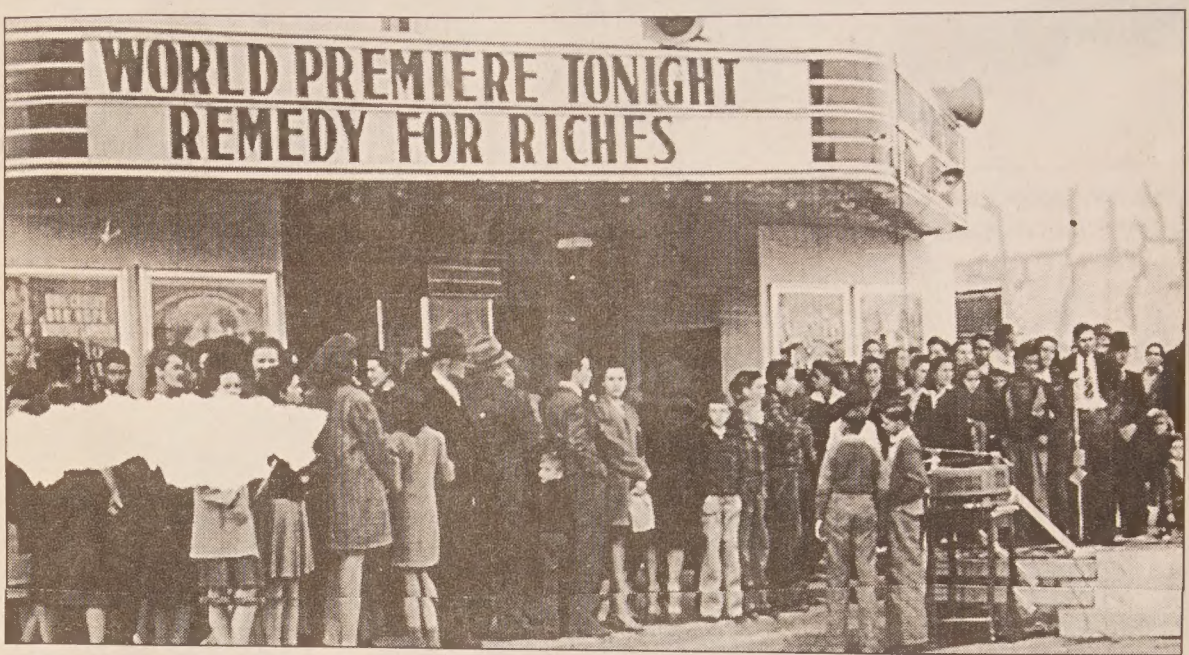
Garbo arrived alone.



Judy Garland looked like Eva Garcia.

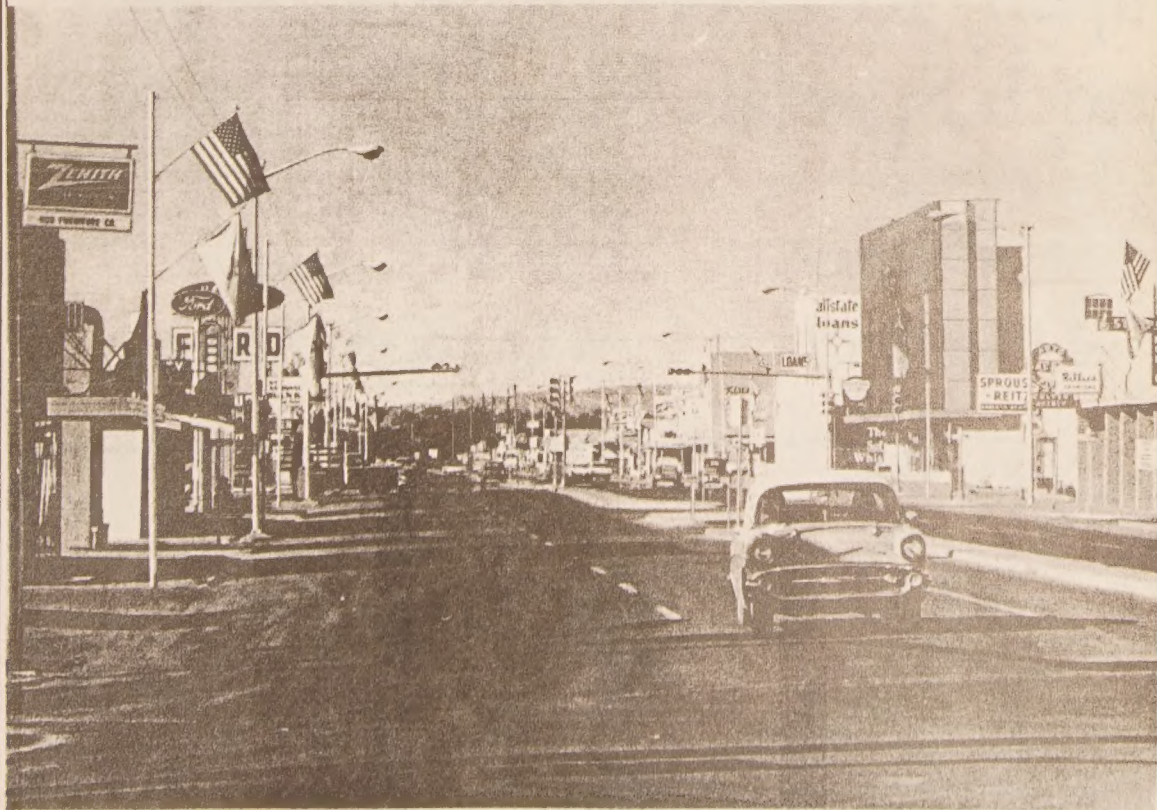


Ruth Esther Lindberg was Mae West.



Crowds lined up at the Onate Theater to see the "movie stars" thronging into town.

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